

Impeachment Aftershocks / What Happens Now?

Politicians Fear a New Wave of Relentless Digging Into Private Lives

By Richard L. Berke
New York Times Service

WASHINGTON — The aftershocks of the impeachment of President Bill Clinton are already being felt by politicians, who fear that America is entering an era in which their private lives will draw more intense scrutiny resulting in more embarrassing disclosures than ever before.

Dozens of candidates and strategists at the local, state and national levels have expressed concern that the political climate wrought by the White House scandal has set the tone for a sullied discourse in the presidential and congressional elections next year. Already, there are examples of information that was once considered private potentially being injected into campaigns.

Three possible Republican presidential candidates — former Vice President Dan Quayle, former Governor Lamar Alexander of Tennessee and Governor George Bush of Texas — have felt obliged to declare publicly that they

have been faithful to their wives.

Influential conservatives have vowed to raise, and keep alive, questions about candidates' private lives. William Bennett, the conservative author and former education secretary, is traveling the nation warning Republican presidential prospects, "If adultery is part of your baggage, forget it." And the Reverend Louis Sheldon, whose Traditional Values Coalition claims a membership of 40,000 evangelical churches, said he would insist that presidential candidates answer his questions about their sexual pasts.

Several politicians said what they viewed as an intensified intrusion into their private lives had led them to think twice about running in the first place. Mr. Bush, for one, said worries about charges that might be made up about his past, accurate or not, and the repercussions for his family were weighing heavily on him as he decided whether to seek the Republican nomination. Steve Forbes, the millionaire publisher who sought the presidency in 1996 and has

said he will again in 2000, said: "There's going to be a lot of muck thrown at those who run. The president has defined the standard downward."

It has become standard fare for reporters, even from some major news organizations, to unapologetically quiz candidates about their sexual histories and possible use of drugs. In a recent interview, Bernard Shaw of CNN told Senator John McCain of Arizona, who is seeking the Republican presidential nomination, "You had an affair during your first marriage," and then asked, "Should a politician's private acts be part of public discourse?" Mr. McCain's response: "Let me say that I am responsible for the breakup of my first marriage. I will not discuss or talk about that any more than that."

Candidates are already plotting how to contend with aggressive inquiries into their private lives. An outside adviser to Mr. Bush said he had suggested that the governor hire an opposition research team to ferret out any negative information about him that opponents could

find. But Mr. Bush, in an interview, said such a move was unnecessary because he had already hired such a researcher during his two runs for governor. "We looked into the record that people would look into," he said.

At the local level, politicians are under attack about making an issue of elected officials' private lives. In Utah, the state attorney general, a Democrat, recently sent affidavits to the state's five Republican members of Congress asking them to attest under oath that they had been faithful to their spouses. The lawmakers refused to sign the pledge but publicly declared their marital fidelity.

In interviews across the country, politicians, strategists and academics denounced what they described as excessive attention to candidates' personal baggage and said it would discourage prospective candidates from running for office, further alienate the public from politics and make it even more difficult for candidates to discuss substantive issues.

"The political culture has changed,

and so has the news culture," said Representative David Obey, Democrat of Wisconsin. "What is now dominating is winning at all costs. There are almost no issues that are off limits. There seem to be no real constraints on people's willingness to hurt somebody else. That goes for politicians and the press alike."

Dick Cheney, a former defense secretary and House member from Wyoming who decided not to seek the Republican presidential nomination four years ago, citing the toll it would take on his family, said campaigning now seemed even less appealing.

"There's a total loss of privacy that goes with being a candidate for public office these days," Mr. Cheney said. "It's hard to watch what's happened with Clinton and not think it's gotten worse."

Several politicians who are seeking the White House said they were wrestling with how to react to questions about their own private behavior and that of their opponents. Politicians said they were not sure whether voters would de-

mand of their candidates a more up-standing private life than Mr. Clinton has led or would be so weary of the whole scandal culture that they would forgive politicians' transgressions, as they seem to have done with Mr. Clinton.

Some strategists warn, in fact, that candidates who declare their personal "purity" could turn off voters by appearing too moralistic.

In the campaign for the elections held last November, Gary Mueller, a Democrat who was challenging Representative Jerry Weller, Republican of Illinois, signed an "affidavit of integrity" in which he swore he had never had an extramarital affair, abused his wife, had any homosexual encounters, experimented with illegal drugs or been charged with a felony.

But Mr. Mueller, who lost the election, was attacked from several quarters, including an editorial in The Chicago Sun-Times that described him as a "sanctimonious political opportunist trying to impose a sexual code of conduct on politics."

Acrimony or Accord?

Idealism in Public Belies a Political Gulf

By David E. Rosenbaum
New York Times Service

WASHINGTON — The official word from President Bill Clinton and congressional leaders in the aftermath of the impeachment vote was that the time had come to bury the hatchet and work together on important policy issues.

But out of camera range, many in the White House and the Capitol said Friday the bad blood was so pervasive, the ideological divisions so vast and the political interests so disparate that they doubted productive bridges could be built between Mr. Clinton and the Republican Congress.

Republicans were stung by the report last week that Mr. Clinton planned to seek political retribution in the next elections against those who impeached him and tried to drive him from office.

"That doesn't sound like reconciliation and progress to me," said Senator Trent Lott of Mississippi, the Republican leader. "That sounds like revenge and politics. Then he says, 'You can trust me on Social Security.' Yeah! Uh-huh!"

A top Republican legislative strategist, speaking on the condition of anonymity, said: "I don't think the president has any interest in achieving solutions in the next two years."

"Electing Gore president and a Democratic House would be vindication for him, and that's what he will focus on," the strategist added, referring to Vice President Al Gore.

A White House official who also insisted on anonymity said that while some of the president's advisers thought he should seek compromises this year with Republicans on divisive issues like Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, health care for the elderly, taxes and education, many other advisers were arguing that a better course would be to wait until after the next election, when they expect a stronger position.

"Bipartisan cooperation isn't the reflex response right now," the official said.

But for all the naysayers, another school of thought holds that it is to the advantage of both the president and the Republicans to strike compromises on the big issues so that both can rise above impeachment.

"The president's been badly damaged by this," said Representative Peter King, Republican of New York. "He has to be aware of that. We have to realize that we were badly hurt by impeachment and we have to show we're a governing party."

Paul Begala, the president's counselor, offered a similar view. Asked whether Mr. Clinton's efforts to promote a Democratic sweep in the 2000 elections would pose a risk to legislative compromise, he replied: "That's a false choice. Getting things done and prospering politically go hand in hand."

The political atmosphere in Congress may have been improved by the Republicans' election this year of Dennis Hastert of Illinois as speaker of the

House and by a newfound camaraderie in the Senate. "At this point, we need to show we're not something to be scared of," Mr. King said, and Mr. Hastert, a low-key former high school wrestling coach, seems to fit that bill.

On CNN last week, in one of the first interviews he has granted since he became speaker, Mr. Hastert contrasted himself with his bombastic predecessor, Newt Gingrich. "Newt was a visionary," Mr. Hastert said. "He was articulate. He had his own ideas, and I mean he was on TV a lot. My job is to make sure that we can put the right people in the spotlight to get the job done."

"I guess that's part of going back to my old coaching career, where we made stars out of a lot of people, but I was never in the spotlight much myself. That's how I see this job."

On the other side of the Capitol, senators from both parties said that the long hours they spent together during the impeachment trial could have positive effects. "This may actually help us work together," Mr. Lott said. "What it has done is given us a renewed understanding of each other's problems and viewpoints. We have gotten to know each other better as people."

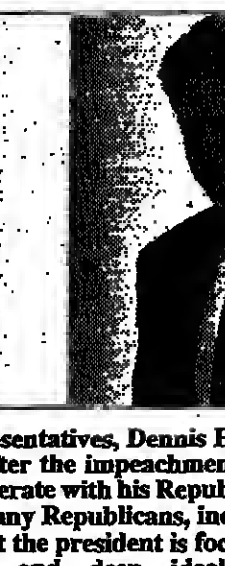
Beyond the question of whether Clinton and the Republicans in Congress overcome their hard feelings from impeachment and find legislative alliances is the matter of whether the Republicans can present a united front. In the House



Mr. Hastert, the new speaker of the House of Representatives, left, might lead to a more congenial political atmosphere after the impeachment trial. President Bill Clinton, center, has publicly pledged to cooperate with his Republican rivals. His remarks in private last week, however, have left many Republicans, including the Senate majority leader, Trent Lott, right, suspicious that the president is focused only on revenge. Both sides acknowledge that bitterness and deep ideological divisions remain.



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Fined \$10 Million, American's Pilots Ease Off

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

DALLAS — American Airlines flight cancellations were down to a quarter of the daily schedule Sunday as more pilots ended a protest following a \$10 million fine from a federal judge for ignoring a back-to-work order.

American, the world's second-largest airline in terms of annual passenger distances traveled, said 537 flights were grounded out of a schedule of 2,250.

This was down from daily peaks of more than 1,000 cancellations during the week that left nearly half a million passengers stranded or delayed ahead of a busy holiday weekend. But it would take time to get all flights going again.

"It will take a couple of days for American to get all of its flights reinstated," said Soja Whittemore, an airline spokeswoman.

A federal judge in Dallas first declared the job action illegal Wednesday and followed with a contempt ruling against the Allied Pilots Association on Saturday, a week after pilots began the action by calling in sick, not getting them back into the cockpits fast enough.

American said 1,147 of its 9,200 pilots were still on the sick rolls as of early Sunday, down several hundred from the day before and a drop from peaks over 2,400 on Thursday and Friday. On Saturday, it canceled more than one-third of its 2,250 scheduled flights.

Pilots started calling in sick and refusing overtime Feb. 6 in a campaign orchestrated by the union to protest the operation of a smaller

West Coast airline with pilots who are paid only half what their counterparts at American earn.

The union says the fact that American, which bought Reno Air in December, has kept Reno's 300 pilots at lower pay rather than promoting them immediately to American terms is a contract violation.

Many pilots have said that they were worried that if the union did not make a stand now, it would set a dangerous precedent if American acquired an even larger airline in the future.

American, the flagship airline of Port Worth-based AMR Corp., said it was moving as quickly as possible to integrate the Reno pilots on American terms but that this must take place gradually over the next 18 months.

Judge Joe Kendall of U.S. District Court, asked by American to halt the job action, ruled the argument was a minor dispute and did not justify a job action that snarled major airports around the country before the Presidents Day holiday weekend.

"This illegal sickout by the union has cost untold millions of dollars in damages to hundreds of thousands of passengers and businesses in this country," Judge Kendall said in his contempt ruling against the union.

He levied a fine of \$10 million, or about a quarter of the union's net assets, but said this was just a preliminary decision and might be raised after a hearing Wednesday to determine how much American has lost in the dispute.

American estimates that the job action has

cost it more than \$40 million.

In his ruling, Judge Kendall said, "Unfortunately, the radical element that appears to be in control of the Allied Pilots Association seems determined to fly American Airlines into the side of the mountain, taking themselves, the company, their co-workers and their customers with them."

Judge Kendall also found the union's president, Richard LaVoy, and his vice president, Brian Mayhew, to be in contempt, stating that they had acted only half-heartedly in telling pilots to end their action following his Wednesday order. He directed Mr. LaVoy to deposit \$10,000 with the court and Mr. Mayhew \$5,000.

After the judge's ruling Saturday, several union leaders emphasized that they were emphatically telling pilots to return to work. But other union members said the rank and file was debating how to respond, with some hard-liners suggesting that they continue their protest.

"There is a split right now," said one pilot on the sick list, who spoke only on the condition that he not be identified. "Some hard-liners are saying stay the course. Others are saying it's time to go back to work to support the union but fight the battle in other ways."

Several pilots said they might support a fallback strategy, a refusal to work overtime — a move that would be less disruptive than calling in sick, but would still force American to cancel some scheduled flights.

(Reuters, NYT)

TRAVEL UPDATE

N.Y. Airports to Ration Own Traffic

NEW YORK (NYT) — For 30 years, the Federal Aviation Administration has rationed landing and takeoff slots to keep La Guardia and Kennedy Airports from being overwhelmed by airplanes. But the Transportation Department, its parent agency, has proposed phasing out the limits over five years. Without them, and without new gates or runways, how will those airports avoid chaos? The same way, the officials say, as the airports in Las Vegas, Long Beach, California; Pontiac, Michigan; and Memphis. All have airlines that have elected on their own to limit traffic to no more than the runways can handle, officials say.

French authorities scaled back a ban on off-piste skiing and snowboarding in the Haute Savoie region following protests from resort operators Sunday. The ban, after 19 deaths in a week in the French Alps, is limited to five specific mountain passages.

This Week's Holidays

Banking and government offices may be closed or services curtailed in the following countries or political entities this week because of national and religious holidays:

MONDAY: Arab, Bolivia, Brazil, Ecuador, Hong Kong, Malaysia, Mauritania, Panama, South Korea, Taiwan, United States, Uruguay, Venezuela, Vietnam, Virgin Islands.

TUESDAY: Andorra, Bolivia, Brazil, China, Ecuador, Hong Kong, Lithuania, Lithuania, Malaysia, Mauritania, Panama, Singapore, South Korea, Taiwan, Uruguay, Venezuela, Vietnam.

WEDNESDAY: Cayman Islands, China, Hong Kong, Jamaica, Malaysia, Singapore, South Korea, Taiwan, Vietnam.

THURSDAY: China, Cambodia, Hong Kong, Kuwait, Taiwan, Vietnam.

FRIDAY: Bahrain, Bangladesh, China, Kuwait, Oman, Saudi Arabia, Turkmenistan.

SUNDAY: Bangladesh. Sources: Bloomberg, Reuters.

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Hungary Airdrops Food To Snowbound Villagers

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

BUDAPEST — Hungarian Army helicopters dropped food to scores of snowbound Hungarian villages Sunday, and border crossings to Ukraine were sealed on a fifth day of heavy snow and high winds in Central and Eastern Europe.

Three more deaths resulting from the severe winter weather were recorded Sunday, pushing Hungary's death toll to 19 since the storm began Wednesday. Eight deaths were reported over the weekend in Slovakia.

In the Czech Republic, a rescue team on Sunday found the bodies of three cross-country skiers who froze to death in the Giant Mountains of eastern Bohemia. The three had been missing since Friday.

Slovakia and the Czech Republic also called in their armies to clear roads and restore access over the weekend.

In Hungary, authorities said 294 communities remained inaccessible by road. Szabolcs-Szamar-Bereg County in the east broke a century-old record Saturday with 68 centimeters (27 inches) of snow. With high winds, in places the snow piled up to more than 4 meters (13 feet). Thousands of policemen, soldiers and civil guards have been working since Wednesday to clear roads and help stranded drivers.

In addition to the helicopters, the army was using 200 armored vehicles to get supplies to villages and rescue people needing medical attention.

The snowfall broke century-old records in some parts of the country, but officials said the weather was turning better. In Warsaw, with three more cold-related deaths reported over the weekend, the death toll in Poland from subfreezing temperatures this winter rose to 202, almost four times as many as last year, the police said Sunday.

(AP, Reuters)

WEATHER

Forecast for Tuesday through Thursday, as provided by AccuWeather.

Forecast for Tuesday through Thursday, as provided by the National Weather Service.

City	Today	Low	High	City	Today	Low	High
Algeria	11/20	6/10	14/20	Albuquerque	11/21	6/11	14/21
Amsterdam	11/20	6/10	14/20	Boston	11/21	6/11	14/21
Antwerp	11/20	6/10	14/20	Chicago	11/21	6/11	14/21
Athens	11/20	6/10	14/20	Dallas	11/21	6/11	14/21
Bahia	11/20	6/10	14/20	Denver	11/21	6/11	14/21
Bangkok	11/20	6/10	14/20	Detroit	11/21	6/11	14/21
Bombay	11/20	6/10	14/20	Houston	11/21	6/11	14/21
Buenos Aires	11/20	6/10	14/20	Los Angeles	11/21	6/11	14/21
Calcutta	11/20	6/10	14/20	Manila	11/21	6/11	14/21
Caracas	11/20	6/10	14/20	Medan	11/21	6/11	14/21
Cebu	11/20	6/10	14/20	Montevideo	11/21	6/11	14/21
Colon	11/20	6/10	14/20	Nairobi	11/21	6/11	14/21
Dakar	11/20	6/10	14/20	Rangoon	11/21	6/11	14/21
Dhaka	11/20	6/10	14/20	Seoul	11/21	6/11	14/21
Disse	11/20	6/10	14/20	Singapore	11/21	6/11	14/21
Dublin	11/20	6/10	14/20	Taipei	11/21	6/11	14/21
Geneva	11/20	6/10	14/20	Tokyo	11/21	6/11	14/21
Hankow	11/20	6/10	14/20	Yokohama	11/21	6/11	14/21
Hong Kong	11/20	6/10	14/20				
Kobe	11/20	6/10	14/20				
London	11/20	6/10	14/20				
Lyons	11/20	6/10	14/20				
Madrid	11/20	6/10	14/20				
Moscow	11/20	6/10	14/20				
Mumbai	11/20	6/10	14/20				
Nairobi	11/20	6/10	14/20				
Paris	11/20	6/10	14/20				
Perth	11/20	6/10	14/20				
Port of Spain	11/20	6/10	14/20				
Rangoon	11/20	6/10	14/20				
Rio de Janeiro	11/20	6/10	14/20				
Sao Paulo	11/20	6/10	14/20				
Shanghai	11/20	6/10	14/20				
Singapore	11/20	6/10	14/20				
Sydney	11/20	6/10	14/20				
Taipei	11/20	6/10	14/20				
Tokyo	11/20	6/10	14/20				

Legend: Unseasonably Cool Unseasonably Warm

Map of North America showing weather patterns.

Map of Europe showing weather patterns.

Map of Asia showing weather patterns.

Map of Africa showing weather patterns.

Map of Australia showing weather patterns.

Map of Oceania showing weather patterns.

Map of Antarctica showing weather patterns.

Map of the Arctic region showing weather patterns.

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THE AMERICAS

Critics in Mexico See Clinton Visit as Snubbing Opposition

By Sam Dillon
New York Times Service

MEXICO CITY — President Bill Clinton has not scheduled a single meeting with opposition political leaders during his trip to Mexico, prompting charges that he is taking sides before Mexico's presidential elections in 2000.

Instead, Mr. Clinton and President Ernesto Zedillo will be the guests in Merida, in the Yucatan Peninsula, of an authoritarian governor battling opposition attempts to impeach him, and they will be entertained at the hacienda of a wealthy banker who has profited from ties to Mexico's governing party.

Mr. Clinton was to fly late Sunday afternoon to Merida before returning to Washington on Monday.

The impression that Mr. Clinton's Mexican tour was politically one-sided formed the week before last as top officials in Washington showered praise on Interior

Minister Francisco Labastida Ochoa, who analysts say has Mr. Zedillo's backing as the governing party's presidential candidate.

"It's a gross mistake not to pay attention to the opposition," said Enrique Krauze, a prominent Mexican historian, one of several independent intellectuals who criticized Mr. Clinton's agenda. "It's like visiting the czar in 1917, without thinking that there might be other forces around."

Clinton administration officials denied playing favorites and insisted that Mr. Clinton's visit should not be viewed as an insult to the opposition parties that control Congress and the Mexico City government.

Mr. Clinton did not have time on this 24-hour trip to meet with everyone, they said.

During his two-day visit in May 1997, however, he made time for two 15-minute encounters with opposition party leaders, breaking the United States' long

tradition of unqualified backing for the governing Institutional Revolutionary Party, known as the PRI.

Juan Rebolledo Goot, Mexico's deputy foreign minister, said in an interview that Mexico hoped to focus the talks on immigration, trade and other issues.

At least two significant agreements could be signed, one providing for increased cross-border airline flights and another aimed at reducing the deaths of Mexican migrant workers, he said.

But because the visit comes two weeks before Mr. Clinton must report to Congress on whether Mexico is a reliable partner in the drug war, talk of illegal drugs will probably dominate.

"Despite all our efforts we never succeed in bringing attention to our huge and complex bilateral agenda because we always end up focusing on narcotics," Mr. Rebolledo said.

Mr. Labastida recently visited Washington to present a new anti-narcotics

plan. Mexican newspapers and political cartoonists portrayed the visit as a blatant campaign stunt.

Jorge Castaneda, a political scientist, said the warm reception of Mr. Labastida has been interpreted in Mexico as an official endorsement. "Whatever their intentions, Clinton administration officials placed themselves in the middle of the politics of Mexico's presidential succession," Mr. Castaneda said.

Don Hamilton, a spokesman for the U.S. Embassy in Mexico City, denied any interference was intended. "We don't have any opinion about who should be Mexico's next president," he said. "The idea that the reception Labastida got in Washington is some kind of political signal is just silly."

But Felipe Calderon, president of the pro-business National Action Party, said that Clinton and Zedillo administration officials "ignored us completely." Several National Action senators were asked to travel to Merida to meet only

with a U.S. congressional delegation, but refused, Mr. Calderon said.

"They were going to be choreographed like extras on a PRI movie set," he said.

In Merida, the two presidents will be the guests of Yucatan's PRI governor, Victor Cervera Pacheco, from a hard-line conservative group within the PRI known as the dinosaurs.

Campaign officials for Vicente Fox, an opposition presidential candidate, said that Mr. Cervera had deployed Yucatan state police to destroy or dismantle 20 of Mr. Fox's campaign billboards in Merida, erasing all sign of opposition presence before Mr. Clinton's arrival.

On Monday, Mr. Zedillo and Mr. Clinton will meet at a hacienda owned by Roberto Hernandez, a banker who during Mexico's last presidential race catered a fund-raiser at which Mexican billionaires were each asked to donate 25 million pesos (\$2.5 million) to the governing party.

POLITICAL NOTES

Sound and Fury, Signifying Nothing

LOS ANGELES — A highly arbitrary and unscientific sampling of writers, historians and critical thinkers on both the left and right revealed little certainty about the impact on the United States of the investigation into the president's relationship with Monica Lewinsky.

But a rough consensus did emerge that the whole affair amounted more to an amplification of social and political trends already under way than a wholly new phenomenon.

"I don't know that there will be any lasting consequences beyond the wretched Beltway," the novelist Ward Just said from Berlin. "Anything momentous has a mystery at its heart, and this episode has no mystery."

David Horowitz, a writer and president of the Center for the Study of Popular Culture in Los Angeles and a prominent conservative voice, said he thought "people are going to be less enthusiastic about probing questions and investigations about candidates' private lives."

By contrast, Douglas Brinkley, a liberal historian at the University of New Orleans, declared: "We've learned that character does matter."

Nora Ephron, the screenwriter, said, "Will there ever be a husband anyone believes again?" (NYT)

Quote/Unquote

Pat Conroy, the novelist, as the impeachment process ended: "Clinton was my all-time favorite president. I thought he was going to be the best president we ever had. I liked his character. I liked his message. I voted for him twice. I danced at his last inauguration. And now I think I was wrong. I think this has been one of the most shameful episodes in presidential history. And I think he's going to make Warren G. Harding look like a giant."

Hunter Thompson, the writer: "It was a witch-hunt from the start. I have always believed he was set up by Starr and the FBI agents and the Jones lawyers. It has been a political war from the start. The rest of Clinton's term will be consumed with vengeance. People are going to pay for this. No writer, except a deeply perverse one, would come up with a story that is all villains and no heroes. It's hard to see any white hats. Even in Nixon's troubles, there were white hats." (NYT)

U.S. Strives to Head Off Curbs On Genetic-Altered Products

By Rick Weiss and Justin Gillis
Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON — The U.S. government and scores of corporations are scrambling to prevent a proposed international agreement from sharply restricting the movement of hundreds of billions of dollars worth of products subjected to genetic engineering, ranging from cotton seeds to soft drinks.

The intense lobbying effort will culminate this week as negotiators from more than 170 countries convene in Cartagena, Colombia, to draw up final language on the pact, which would be the world's first accord to regulate the spread of manipulated organisms.

Depending on how the agreement is worded, it could promote or restrict the burgeoning biotechnology industry worldwide.

Despite years of preparatory negotiations, however, philosophical differences loom between the handful of countries ready and eager to ship genetically engineered products around the world and many other countries that remain wary of the biotechnology revolution.

Environmental groups see the proposed agreement as their first opportunity to set ecological standards for trade in gene-altered crops, livestock and other products.

Yet many American companies — along with the governments of the

United States, Canada, Australia and others — are alarmed about draft language that, they say, could undermine the global economy and severely disrupt world trade.

Former President Jimmy Carter and others have warned that if a badly worded agreement goes through, grain could rot on docks, regulators could freeze shipments of vaccines and other vital drugs, and trade in products as commonplace as corn oil and paper could slow to a snail's pace.

But diplomats from several other countries contend the greater risk is that unregulated trade in gene-altered seeds, microbes, plants or animals will harm the environment and human health.

"Genetic pollution is considerably more dangerous than oil spills," said Kristin Dawkins of the Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy in Minneapolis.

"You can't just go out there and put a boom around it and pot it back in," American hopes that the accord will ultimately favor less stringent trade rules were weakened Thursday as the European Parliament enacted new restrictions on genetically engineered seeds and organisms.

And although the legislation must be passed by the European Council of Ministers before it becomes law, passage by the Parliament was seen by some as a strong signal of support for countries



TORIES CONFER — William Hague, right, leader of Britain's Conservatives, meeting with Mayor Rudolph Giuliani of New York during his U.S. visit.

pushing for more regulation at Cartagena.

These include the glue in many cardboard boxes, the corn sweetener in soft drinks, much of the insulin that keeps diabetics healthy, many of the vaccines that protect children from deadly ailments and thousands of other products.

Lately, however, concerns have grown about the potential ecological, social and economic effects of world commerce in engineered seeds, organisms and biotech products.

Some countries fear engineered microbes or plants will disrupt local ecologies and undermine traditional farming practices. Others have focused on perceived health threats.

The "biosafety protocol" being negotiated in Cartagena is an outgrowth of a treaty called the Convention on Biological Diversity, which emerged from the June 1992 Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro. The diversity agreement, now ratified by 174 nations, calls for protecting the variety of plants and animals found in the wild. Ecologists have recognized that diversity is one of Earth's

most valuable treasures.

The many U.S. government and industry representatives traveling to Cartagena have no official standing in the weeklong talks because the U.S. Senate never ratified the Convention on Biological Diversity. President Bill Clinton signed the treaty in 1993, but lingering concerns held up Senate approval.

That means that although the United States would have to abide by any trade rules imposed, U.S. representatives can only "observe" the negotiations and try to influence them informally.

Away From Politics

• It was an unhappy Valentine's Day for Ann Fair, a florist in Fayetteville, North Carolina. She was set for her big day of the year until she found that burglars had stolen \$10,000 worth of roses, mums and other flowers. (AP)

• Police will issue hollow-point bullets to officers in New York City, Mayor Rudolph Giuliani said, citing concerns over public safety. (NYT)

• An armored car company employee was arrested in a \$1 million robbery in Detroit after one of the robbery victims recognized him on surveillance film as a co-worker. (AP)

• Two former sheriff's deputies were indicted on civil rights violations in the case of an inmate who died of a blow to the head while in custody in South Bend, Indiana. (AP)

• The Galileo spacecraft was operating normally again after it went into a partial shutdown when its computer became confused near Jupiter's moon Europa. (AP)

• The sale of driver's license photos to a company that wants them for an anti-fraud system used by businesses must go ahead, a South Carolina judge ruled. (AP)

TRAVEL UPDATE

Airports to Ration Own Fuel

NEW YORK — Fuel is a scarce commodity at airports around the world, and it's getting scarier. The Transportation Department has proposed a new system to ration fuel at airports, and it's not a pretty picture. The proposal would require airports to ration fuel to their own airlines, and it would also require airports to ration fuel to other airlines. The proposal would also require airports to ration fuel to other airlines.

Ch. authorities scaled back fuel use, and it's not a pretty picture. The proposal would require airports to ration fuel to their own airlines, and it would also require airports to ration fuel to other airlines. The proposal would also require airports to ration fuel to other airlines.

Fish's Holiday

Using anti-contaminant chemicals in the fishery industry is a controversial issue. The industry is concerned about the cost of the chemicals, and the environmentalists are concerned about the impact of the chemicals on the fish. The industry is concerned about the cost of the chemicals, and the environmentalists are concerned about the impact of the chemicals on the fish.

Moby's Holiday

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INTERNATIONAL

2 Parties Try To Put Aside Acrimony of Clinton Case

By Brian Knowlton
International Herald Tribune

WASHINGTON — The White House, two days after the Senate acquitted President Bill Clinton, is ready to "put aside this matter" and move beyond impeachment, but senators of both parties warned Sunday that any attempt to exact revenge on Mr. Clinton's Republican foes would ruin any prospect for bipartisan cooperation.

Mr. Clinton's acquittal Friday cleared away the most immediate obstacle to the legislative process, ending a bitterly damaging episode. Spokesmen for both sides offered each other olive branches Sunday. The truce, however, appeared tentative and conditional.

The White House, appearing chastened by the 13-month ordeal, sought to emphasize the prospects for cooperation. "The public expect us both to work together," John Podesta, the White House chief of staff, said on ABC.

He said Mr. Clinton had spoken Saturday to the Republican leaders of Congress about Kosovo and hoped to meet with them soon to discuss areas for legislative cooperation.

"The American people will expect us to put aside this matter now that it's over and to have a constructive dialogue," he said.

Senator Don Nickles, the assistant Republican leader, echoed a comment Friday by the majority leader, Senator Trent Lott of Mississippi, that Mr. Clinton could not be trusted. He insisted, however, that Republicans were ready to move ahead.

"We need to work together," he said on ABC. "We must work together, and we will."

Another ranking Republican, Senator Mitch McConnell of Kentucky, agreed that "We don't trust him a lot," but added, "He's the president, we're going to try to work with him."

"It's time to move on," said Senator John McCain of Arizona. "My colleagues on both sides of the aisle share that view."

Senators of both parties pointedly warned the White House against targeting Mr. Clinton's Republican detractors for electoral defeat. The New York Times had quoted White House aides as saying that Mr. Clinton would like to do so.

"We just can't work well together if you know that they're mounting some kind of specific vengeance-minded program," Mr. McCain said.

An influential senior Democrat, Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan of New York, was equally blunt. Asked whether Mr. Clinton could avoid gloating, the senator replied: "He has opportunities, but he will squander them if there is any note of vengeance." In that case, he added, Mr. Clinton could "forget about a legacy."

At least two Republicans said that they hoped that Kenneth Starr, the independent counsel, would not seek Mr. Clinton's criminal indictment. "Indicting the president would not be a great idea," Mr. McConnell said. The post-Watergate law that created the office of the independent counsel, he said, should be "ended, not amended" when it comes up for renewal in June.

Representative Henry Hyde of Illinois, who led the House prosecution team during the Senate trial, also opposed indictment. "I would close that book," he said in an ABC interview. "I think indicting the president would not be appropriate."

Mr. Moynihan agreed, saying that the independent counsel statute had been "a liberal disaster."

Mr. Podesta hinted strongly that Mr. Clinton, who signed the bill last time it came up, was now prone to let it die. "It's virtually hopeless to try to fix it without some major, major revisions," Mr. Podesta said.

Meanwhile, neither Mr. Podesta nor another White House spokesperson, Ann Lewis, would say whether Hillary Rodham Clinton had decided to seek a New York senatorial seat, but neither denied it. Both said she would win if she ran and would make "a great senator."

Mr. Podesta was asked about Mr. Clinton's reaction when he phoned the president Friday with the results of the Senate vote. "He didn't really react," he didn't react," Mr. Podesta said. There was "some relief" but mainly a readiness to return to normal business.

Israelis Clashing in a Culture War Over Identity of the State

By Lee Hockstader
Washington Post Service

JERUSALEM — Rabbi Menachem Porush is a field general in the culture war now consuming Israel. His telephone rings incessantly, aides seek his counsel every few minutes, and his thick Yiddish accent obscures much of what he says in English. Still, what does come through is clear enough: Where does Israel's secular Supreme Court get off telling Orthodox Jews how to run their lives?

"They're acting like a dictator," said Rabbi Porush, 82, deadly serious behind his wispy white beard and thick glasses. "It's a very dangerous situation."

With a few other senior rabbis, Rabbi Porush, head of the Orthodox Association of Israel movement, organized the massive demonstration in Jerusalem on Sunday. The rally was called to protest what Israel's most observant Jews regard as the tyranny of the country's highest courts.

The courts have largely handed down a series of rulings sharply limiting the privileges, powers and perks of the Orthodox, some of them enshrined

since the infancy of the Jewish state a half-century ago. In so doing, they have stepped up a long-simmering culture war along one of the main fault lines of Israeli society — between a secular Jewish majority on the one side and a rigorously Orthodox minority on the other. The divide is so deep, and increasingly so bitter, that Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and others have warned that it contains the seeds of a civil war.

The struggle casts a spotlight on the unsettled relations among religion, the state and society, as well as the identity of Israel itself — whether it is principally a secular democracy populated largely by Jews and governed by civil law or a Jewish state in which Halakha, or Jewish law, is deemed sacrosanct in matters pertaining to the observant.

The current conflict has focused on the Supreme Court and its chief justice, Aharon Barak. For secular Jews here, which includes virtually all the mainstream press and much of the political establishment, the court is a touchstone of Israeli democracy, respected as the standard-bearer of law and justice. For them, an attack on the court smacks of theocracy and is tantamount to an assault on Israeli civil society, law and order and

the legitimacy of the state itself. The most religious Jews amount to just 10 percent of the Israeli population, but to them the court is a bastion of godlessness whose rulings have trespassed into the religious domain.

The rabbis have been particularly incensed by recent rulings ending a blanket exemption from army service for 28,000 rigorously Orthodox teenagers and permitting stores run by collective farms to operate on Shabbat, the Jewish sabbath. The Supreme Court justices are "evil, stubborn and rebellious," said Rabbi Ovadia Yosef, the spiritual leader of Shas, the largest religious political party.

From his headquarters, Rabbi Porush has issued what sounds like a call for holy war, criticizing the court and threatening an uprising if it persisted with "anti-Semitic decisions." His movement, Agudat Israel, or the Association of Israel, has printed hundreds of thousands of black-and-white posters demanding a halt to "the destruction of religion."

Those words, and similar ones from other leading rabbis, sparked an uproar in a society that remembers similar rhetorical attacks directed at Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin shortly before he was assassinated in 1995. Prosecutors said they would

consider whether to bring criminal charges of incitement against the rabbis.

The rabbis are also nervously awaiting a hearing before the court on a case that could break the Orthodox monopoly governing conversions to Judaism in Israel. The hearing will review a dispiriting court ruling in December ordering the Israeli government to recognize conversions to Judaism performed by Reform and Conservative rabbis.

To the Orthodox, Reform and Conservative rabbis practice a faith that is not Judaism, so the notion that they could determine who is a Jew is deeply disturbing. "We accept the court as long as it deals with relations between man and man," Rabbi Porush said. "But when it deals with relations between man and God, that's different."

To some, the Israeli media and courts are the last remaining liberal bastions among leading institutions that have become more conservative and integrated with religion. "They feel they built the country and they own it, and that's a lot of the impetus behind today's culture conflict," said Jonathan Rosenblum, an Orthodox writer.

But secular voices are urging stiff resistance in the face of what they consider religious coercion.

ISRAEL: Factions Stage Protests

Continued from Page 1

erion of religious Jews." For secular Israelis, who governed the country with little competition from their religious brethren until the late 1970s, the rise of Orthodox political power and budget subsidies has been cause for growing alarm.

Both have increased in the two-and-a-half years since Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu came to power, analysts say.

What makes them particularly indignant is that Orthodox teenagers are exempted from the three years of army service required of nearly all other Israeli men. That and the state subsidies that allow many Orthodox not to work for a living are galling to secular Israelis.

"I've had enough," said Susan Maltz, 55, who joined a busload of protesters who came to the secular "counterdemonstration" from near Tel Aviv. "This society is simply crumbling apart. The religious feel they know better than us."

"Basically, they don't work and feel they should be paid for because they're praying on our behalf. It only exists here because politicians give in to their cause because they want them in their coalitions."

The dispute is political dynamite, and all three major candidates for prime minister in the May 17 elections — Mr. Netanyahu, the Labor Party leader Ehud Barak and Yitzhak Mordechai of the emerging centrist party — stayed away from both rallies.



Ultra-Orthodox Jews marching through a construction site Sunday during a protest against what they claim is religious persecution by Israel's Supreme Court. An estimated 250,000 joined the march.

CAMPAIGN: Impeachment Arguments to Get a Second Wind Until the 2000 Elections

Continued from Page 1

those candidates who avoid negative attacks and focus on the future.

• Impeachment will energize ideological activists in both parties, much the same way abortion has for many years, and will intensify competition for control of the House. Republicans face a difficult struggle to maintain their narrow majority in that chamber.

History shows how quickly the political climate can change in a presidential campaign cycle. The deep recession of 1982 that produced Democratic midterm election victories gave way to "morning in America" in 1984 that re-elected Ronald Reagan in a landslide. National pride over the Gulf War victory in 1991 gave way to national anxiety over the economy in 1992 and brought Mr. Clinton to office.

Despite an extraordinary amount of activity by prospective presidential can-

didates in the past year, Campaign 2000 has not registered at all with the public. That is about to change. And despite the American people's professed weariness with the examination of politicians' personal lives, many strategists anticipate that the hangover from impeachment will be even more scrutiny than previously.

"Unfortunately this probably sets the stage for the most intensive, intrusive review of candidates' private lives that we've ever seen," said Tom Rath, an advisor to Lamar Alexander, a former Tennessee governor. "We're going to know a lot more about what these guys did in high school than any of us want to know."

A Republican pollster, Whit Ayres, said a recent survey he did among Iowa Republicans showed that character was the most important factor likely to influence their vote for president, while impeachment was well down the list.

But Mr. Ayres cautioned that voters' definition of character may be more complicated than in the past.

Governor Bush (who said he has not made a decision about running) and Senator John McCain, Republican of Arizona, may be among the first to test the new character boundaries for candidates. Both have admitted to mistakes.

Mr. Bush to heavy drinking in his 20s and 30s, Mr. McCain to marital infidelity that broke up his first marriage — but have refused to talk in detail about their private lives.

Still, there appears to be no escaping intrusive questions. During a recent interview with a television station in Manchester, New Hampshire, Mr. Bush was asked, "Have you ever used drugs? Marijuana? Cocaine?"

"I'm not going to talk about what I did as a child," he replied. "It is irrelevant what I did 20 to 30 years ago. What's relevant is that I have learned from any mistakes I had."

Many Republicans argue that, despite the public's desire not to see President Clinton removed from office, there will be a backlash against his presidency that could hurt Mr. Gore in 2000 — even though the vice president has not been stung by scandal in his personal life.

Elizabeth Dole, speaking in New Hampshire last week, said Americans deserve "a government worthy of its people," a line reminiscent of the theme Jimmy Carter used during his 1976 campaign after Watergate when he called for a government "as good as the people."

Mr. Quayle plans to be even more direct. Kyle McSlarrow, chairman of Mr. Quayle's campaign, said the former vice president would make values like "honor, integrity and responsibility" as central to the presidential campaign debate as Social Security and education.

Mr. Quayle also plans to criticize Mr. Gore's decision to stand by President Clinton throughout the impeachment process.

Continued from Page 1

Netanyahu in May elections, wrote to Mr. Clinton, applauding the Senate vote and saying he believed it would enable the president to concentrate on other matters, such as reviving the Middle East peace process.

Across Africa, the scandal managed to intrude into people's lives even though many were facing more serious matters, such as a simmering war between Eritrea and Ethiopia.

In the Eritrean capital, Asmara, people expressed amazement that a political crisis that grew out of private acts could obscure the United States for more than a year.

"It was in everybody's face," said Sarah Beretke, 20. "Believe me, people are tired of hearing about it."

Others said they hoped that Mr. Clinton would be able to focus on more pressing issues, such as border skirmishes on his continent.

"The presidency is much more than what Mr. Clinton has gone through," said Solomon Ababa, a travel agent.

European governments refrained from public comment on Mr. Clinton's acquittal.

"As we have said all along, this has been a matter for the American Senate," said a spokesman for Prime Minister Tony Blair of Britain.

Newspapers felt no such constraints. "Thank goodness it is all over," observed the lead editorial in The Independent.

It went on to describe Mr. Clinton as "a shamed president" but expressed admiration for his Houdini-like ability to survive what once seemed like an impossible plight.

Much of the political coverage of Mr. Clinton's impeachment trial split along partisan lines in Britain, and the denouement in the Senate was no different.

A headline in The Mirror lambasted the "Randy Sinner's Cheap Lies," and an accompanying column concluded that "Bill Clinton emerges from this sorry saga with zero credibility."

Other British newspapers suggested that Mr. Clinton's reputation had suffered such serious damage that it could hamper his ability to conduct foreign policy in his last two years in office.

In Germany, newspaper editorials savored the irony that the biggest losers in the scandal involving Mr. Clinton's relationship with Monica Lewinsky might turn out to be the president's most zealous political enemies.

The conservative daily Die Welt observed that the Republicans had inflicted a humiliating moral defeat on themselves by persisting in pushing the impeachment process despite an overwhelming desire by the American public to drop the case.

"The highest price will be paid in any case by the Republicans," said the lead editorial in Die Tagespiegel.

"Those who broke ranks will be deemed traitors to the party," the editorial read, "and those who voted guilty will be seen as traitors to the American people."

KOSOVO: Serbs and Rebels Meet For First Time

Continued from Page 1

oslovakia, she spoke of childhood time in Belgrade, the Serbian capital, and even sang them a Serbian lullaby her father had sung to her.

NATO has threatened air strikes against Serbian military positions if a deal is not struck at Rambouillet, and Mrs. Albright stressed that the threat "remains real."

■ Clinton Promises to Send Troops

James Bennet of The New York Times reported from Washington:

President Clinton announced over the weekend that he would send nearly 4,000 troops to Kosovo to defend the "national interest" as part of a NATO peacekeeping force, provided the ethnic Albanians and Serbs strike a peace deal.

"America has a national interest in achieving this peace," Mr. Clinton said. "If the conflict persists, there likely will be a tremendous loss of life and a massive refugee crisis in the middle of Europe."

The parties have made little progress in their

talks. But in the event of an agreement, the Clinton administration and its European allies want to have a force ready to move swiftly into the area.

Mr. Clinton argued that the prospect of U.S. participation in the NATO force would give "both sides the confidence to lay down their arms."

He insisted that the NATO mission, which is expected to include 28,000 troops, "be well-defined, with a clear and realistic strategy to allow us to bring our forces home when their work is done."

The administration has been consulting with members of Congress to obtain their support for the mission, but has taken the position that it does not need formal congressional approval to send troops.

The president said that he would not send troops unless the Serbs and Kosovo Albanians agreed to the force and demonstrated that they would carry out the peace agreement. That agreement, he said, "must provide for an immediate cease-fire, rapid withdrawal of most Serbian security forces, and demilitarization of the insurgents."



Secretary of State Albright with Foreign Minister Hubert Védrine of France at a news conference Sunday.

Fatal Police Fire in Russia Focuses Fury on Gangs

By Daniel Williams
Washington Post Service

SAMARA, Russia — In a nation where few major crimes are solved, what people believe to have happened after a violent incident frequently tells more about life than the official versions.

A case in point is the reaction to an explosive fire Wednesday that destroyed a regional police headquarters in this Volga city, killing at least 60 people, according to officials, and wiping out the city's criminal archives.

Officials said that arson was a possibility but that an accident was as likely a cause. No one seems to believe that. Many people in Samara think arson was the cause. Their response is a testament to the grip of crime.

"How can people be convinced otherwise?" asked Yelena Fustolina, an expert on gang crime. "They see criminals everywhere. They see that none are punished. They don't believe the police. Why should they? The authorities are always saying they are cracking down on crime, and nothing has come of it."

On Saturday, this sad and skeptical Volga River industrial city mourned the victims of the fire. Thousands of citizens and police colleagues filed by 20 coffins laid out in a hockey arena. The coffins contained recovered and identified bodies. At least 40 more people were burned beyond recognition, crushed and charred in the rubble, and have not been identified, Interior Minister Sergei Stepashin said.

Somber music from police bands filled the arena and a long line of gray-clad officers kept vigil at the coffins, draped in red and black.

Mr. Stepashin pledged that the "fight against bandits will continue." His presence indicated the scale of the disaster but also a determination to investigate the fire and to find the cause.

"Let no one hope that criminals in Samara or other parts of the region will be able to flee," he said.

In Russia, plane crashes, fires, the collapse of buildings and other disasters frequently reveal vast weaknesses in public services, and the Samara fire is no exception.

Water pressure was so low that water from the

fire trucks' hoses could not reach above the third floor of the five-story building, said Alexander Mikhailov, a spokesman for Mr. Stepashin.

Although firefighters rushed to the scene, they could put up only two ladders beside the building. Trapped people waved frantically and screamed for help. Some jumped to their death.

While the inferno, which began at 6 P.M., roared, extra trucks were summoned from nearby cities. But they didn't arrive until four hours later.

The fire dealt a blow to the confidence of the city's 1.5 million inhabitants. For the last few years, Samara has regarded itself as a vanguard of the new democratic and capitalist Russia and as the capital of an inland community of prospering Volga cities.

It privatized business, encouraged farming with cheap credits and welcomed foreign investment. The period of euphoria ended in August with the ruble's collapse, the closing of banks and the start of an inflationary spiral.

"We are thinking, if this police station in the middle of our city can be destroyed, where is there safety?" a retired firefighter said.

British Paper Says Russia Signs Iraqi Arms Accords

Reuters

LONDON — The Sunday Telegraph newspaper reported that Russia had signed arms deals with Iraq worth more than £100 million in a blatant breach of the United Nations arms embargo.

Quoting unidentified diplomatic sources in Moscow, the newspaper said Russia had agreed to upgrade and overhaul Iraq's squadrons of aging MIG jet fighters and to restore Iraq's defenses to combat readiness.

It said the deals were signed in Moscow in January after a visit by the Iraqi deputy prime minister, Tariq Aziz.

Speaking Sunday in France at the Kosovo peace talks, the Russian foreign minister, Igor Ivanov, denied the report, saying that Russia was abiding strictly by its commitments on UN resolutions concerning Iraq.

The British Foreign Office said it would investigate the report by The Sunday Telegraph. "We take seriously all allegations of breaches of UN sanctions against Iraq and we will look into this," a spokesman said.

Welsh Contest

Leadership Co

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BRIEFLY

Drawing on their knowledge of a low turnout for the surprise party, the students were waiting on the third floor, surrounded by a few faculty members. It was a good thing, as a power outage in the building was occurring. One of the teachers, who had been in the room for the last 10 minutes, said that the students had been waiting for the surprise party for a long time. The students were waiting for the surprise party for a long time. The students were waiting for the surprise party for a long time. The students were waiting for the surprise party for a long time.

INTERNATIONAL

Ethiopia Blames a Mosquito Bite for the War With Eritrea

By Karl Vick
Washington Post Service

MASSAWA, Eritrea — In Ethiopia's capital, the inscrutable war it is waging with Eritrea is occasionally explained in a single, sarcastic sentence: "The mosquito is back."

That refers to the insect that hit the Eritrean president, Issaias Afewerki, early in 1994, infecting him with malaria that almost killed him. It was a particularly lethal cerebral strain and some in Ethiopia seriously propose that a lingering aftereffect provides the answer to the abiding question: Why are these two countries at war?

"My understanding is that this is a border dispute," Mr. Issaias said in an interview. Indeed, hundreds died last week in fighting on the frontier between the Horn of Africa neighbors that were friendly until recently. Thousands more wait in trenches on either side of the most intensely disputed sections of the 950-kilometer (600-mile) strip.

But what began last May as a skirmish over maps and exploded into war in June shows signs of becoming something more, Mr. Issaias said. Ethiopia maintains that land is its only priority, but Mr. Issaias said that Ethiopia is fighting because it would like to see a different government in Eritrea, the tiny country that until 1993 was an Ethiopian province.

That claim was denied again over the weekend.

Mr. Issaias is "trying to mobilize the Eritrean people behind him, because the people of Eritrea are not happy about the border issue," said Yemane Kidane, a senior official in the Ethiopian Foreign Ministry. "We've made it crystal clear that we are concerned only with our sovereignty."

"Any change in government, Mr. Yemane added, "is the responsibility of the Eritrean people."

"The Eritrean people seem disinclined to take up the gambit," said Yemane Kidane, a senior official in the Ethiopian Foreign Ministry. "We've made it crystal clear that we are concerned only with our sovereignty."

"We believe in Issaias as a god," said Hassan Saleh, at a café in this port city. Mr. Issaias "is the George Washington of Eritrea," said a diplomat stationed in Asmara, the Eritrean capital. "There is no challenge to this man. He is the one whom most people consider to have brought them their freedom and sovereignty. He's responsible for the

country, as far as they're concerned."

Mr. Issaias, 53, who helped rebels win Eritrea's independence from Ethiopia in 1991, smiled at the mosquito joke in an interview Friday but expressed dismay at the personalization of the conflict.

Ethiopia, he said, "has changed its position from a border conflict to a campaign to topple the government of Eritrea."

Mr. Issaias said the "big plan" that had floated freely in the Ethiopian media also had been confirmed by Ethiopian junior officers captured in fighting early last week. Mr. Issaias said he interviewed the officers personally.

"It would be insane to think they could topple a government here," he said. "Do they believe this fairy tale? Is it an appeal to the Ethiopian population? Is it an appeal to the Eritrean population here and abroad?"

Eritrea came to the current conflict with a record of disputes with its neighbors; it currently is on civil terms only with Yemen, after nearly going to war over a border there, too. Moreover, to a diplomatic community that knows countries mostly by their leaders, Mr. Issaias, though smooth and articulate, has a reputation for brutal directness.

He rebuked the United Nations, which ignored the 30-year struggle for Eritrean independence, and made clear his disdain for the historically feckless Organization of African Unity. International aid organizations operating in Eritrea were informed that the country would be happy to accept their money but had no use for the foreign experts who usually come with it.

In private, Mr. Issaias can be even stronger. During months of efforts to find a peaceful way out of the border crisis, he met frequently with negotiators shuttling between Asmara and Addis Ababa, Ethiopia's capital. Some walked away stunned.

"He just says things and does things that are just way out there, on almost a daily basis," said a person involved in the negotiations, who requested anonymity. "He enjoys being the co-ordinator. He loves seeing the reaction of people when he says something that's outrageous."

"I think a lot of people think he's irrational and out of control, but I see it from his perspective."

That perspective is framed by the



A wounded Ethiopian soldier joining a lineup of prisoners Sunday at a camp near Asmara, the Eritrean capital.

points laid out by Susan Rice, U.S. assistant secretary of state for African affairs, last March. The framework, now embodied in a resolution by the Organization of African Unity, calls for technical demarcation of the border, but only after Eritrea pulls its troops out of the disputed regions where Mr. Issaias ordered them in May and where fierce fighting broke out Saturday.

In short, the peace proposal picks up the current controversy at its international flash point, while ignoring earlier border incidents and provocations that Eritrean officials said prompted Mr. Issaias to military action.

But Mr. Issaias has shouldered no domestic blame for the border conflict, interviews with Eritreans suggest. In Asmara he is prized as a familiar if remote figure, glimpsed dining out with his wife

or, less often, sharing a drink with other former fighters in the grass-roots liberation struggle that created a nation of striking social cohesion.

"There is no cult," said a longtime foreign resident, noting that, unlike many African nations, Eritrea is not awash in portraits of its president on its currency or in its places of business. "It's more that he is first among equals."

Arriving in Massawa to speak at a festival, he climbs out of a vehicle wearing sandals and a brown plaid shirt, acknowledges the crowd with one hand and scratches his nose with the other.

The informality developed over decades in the mountains and bush with the Eritrean People's Liberation Front, which Mr. Issaias joined in 1966. He was its leader in 1991 when it finally defeated the Ethiopian Army led by Mengistu Haile Mariam. By then the Eritrean insurgents had formed an alliance with another rebel army, led by Meles Zenawi, now the prime minister of Ethiopia and Mr. Issaias's enemy in the border fighting.

Mr. Issaias said the lessons of the liberation war — when the vastly outnumbered Eritreans defeated Africa's largest and best-equipped army — were apparently lost on the Ethiopians. In the heavy fighting that broke out Feb. 6, he

said Ethiopian forces relied on "a shopping list" of advanced military hardware, including T-62 tanks and late-model anti-tank missiles.

Eritrean forces held their position, he said, a claim generally supported by diplomats here.

"It was a mistake to think any toy, any gadget you could buy on the market, can resolve any battle," Mr. Issaias said.

Asked why, in that case, Eritrea recently spent millions buying MIG-23 fighter jets, Mr. Issaias insisted that the planes, which can reach the Ethiopian capital, are intended to deter air attacks on Eritrea. He vowed that Eritrea would not initiate an offensive but also offered a lesson: "One thing I've learned in the last eight months is that might makes right."

Fighting Begins on a New Front

Ethiopia said it had inflicted heavy casualties on Eritrea in fresh fighting Sunday on a new front southwest of Asseb, Eritrea's strategic Red Sea port, Reuters reported from Addis Ababa.

Eritrea said it had shot down an Ethiopian Mi-24 helicopter gunship over the front line, killing the crew. Ethiopia later acknowledged the report. Both sides blamed the other for starting the fighting Sunday.

BRIEFLY

A German Banker Is Killed in Iran

TEHRAN — An Iranian gunman shot and killed a German banker he had taken hostage while being chased by the police, the Foreign Ministry said Sunday.

A ministry spokesman expressed regret at the death of Heinrich Lemhert, the representative of Deutsche Bank in Tehran, in a shoot-out near the holy city of Qum on Saturday.

The newspaper Kayhan said Mohammed Aza Ziyarati Farahani, 24, also had killed three Iranians, including a police officer, before being killed by the police. (Reuters)

Groups Reaffirm Bounty on Rushdie

TEHRAN — Iranian hard-liners used the 10th anniversary Sunday of the death order against the British author Salman Rushdie to reaffirm their intention to carry out the sentence for blasphemy despite a diplomatic deal designed to paper over the affair.

"Iran is serious and determined in the execution of God's order," Ayatollah Hassan Sanei, head of a religious foundation that has underwritten a \$2.8 million bounty on the author's head, was quoted as saying by the daily Jomhuri-e Islami. (Reuters)

Bomb Trial Nears

RAMBOUILLET, France — Two Libyan suspects in the bombing in 1988 of a Pan Am jet over Lockerbie, Scotland, are closer than ever to facing trial, but a clear agreement from Libya is still needed, Foreign Secretary Robin Cook of Britain said Sunday.

On Saturday, Saudi Arabian diplomats told UN officials in New York that Colonel Moammar Gadhafi, the Libyan leader, had agreed to the suspects being tried before Scottish judges sitting in the Netherlands. (AP)

Missile-Shield Talks

OTTAWA — Canada and the United States are holding high-level discussions on the construction of a North American nuclear-missile shield, The Globe and Mail newspaper reported. (AFP)

Jordan's Spirit of Unity Faces a Trial

By Douglas Jehl
New York Times Service

CAIRO — After the death of King Hussein and the crowning of his son as successor, Jordanians are hoping that the overwhelming solidarity shown in response to their trauma will prove to be more than passing.

In the sadness prompted by the king's death, world leaders and fellow members of the Hashemite family alike have pledged support for King Abdullah II, first at the vast state funeral last Monday and then in the days of mourning that followed.

But what is important now, Jordanians and diplomats in the region say, is that those pledges be made tangible. Jordan is now led by a 37-year-old ruler who has little experience of power, while a heavy debt burden has cast a shadow over a hoped-for economic revival, and tensions in the royal family still have the prospect to become a troublesome distraction.

"King Abdullah is on more solid ground than his father was in 1952," a former Jordanian cabinet minister said, in a reference to the year that King Hussein took power, at a time of turmoil in the Arab world. "But it's certainly shaky in some respects."

Another former minister offered this assessment when asked about the man who was thrust into his position as next in line to the throne only in the final weeks of his father's life: "He's not incapable. But he needs plenty of counsel and advice, and he's also going to need some outside help."

By nearly every account, where Jordan is most vulnerable is in its economy, already suffering from high unemployment and low growth and facing more than \$8 billion in debt, an amount greater than its gross domestic product.

There had been worries that nervousness over King Hussein's death could set off a crippling run on Jordan's currency, the dinar.

For now, an American promise to speed payments of millions of dollars in economic aid to the kingdom appears to have averted that danger, diplomats in the region said.

But the diplomats say that Jordan, an important stabilizing force in the Middle East, remains in urgent need of relief. That relief could come through the rescheduling of hundreds of millions of dollars in debt owed this year to Japan and Europe, or, preferably, through forgiveness, a step embraced by the United States in 1994, when it wiped away \$700 million in Jordanian debt.

Another hope that has been rekindled in Jordan is the prospect that Saudi Arabia or Kuwait might revive old genocides.

Before the Gulf War of 1991, those countries provided both aid and employment to Jordan, but both streams were all but eliminated as punishment for King Hussein's tilt to Iraq.

Since the king's death, Saudi and Kuwaiti leaders have spoken of Jordan with fresh warmth. Diplomats in the region are working closely to see if those remarks translate into any fresh sharing of money, although the Gulf states may be giving now because of depressed oil prices and their own economic troubles.

A more distant but no less troublesome challenge for Jordan could come in relations with the Palestinians.

On Friday, the Palestinian leader, Yasser Arafat, in a surprise move, offered what he portrayed as a goodwill gesture to King Abdullah, saying that the Palestinians would welcome a confederation with Jordan.

Jordanian officials said Sunday, however, that calls for confederation were premature before the Palestinians won full independence, Reuters reported from Amman.

Responding to comments by Mr. Arafat, the officials said Jordan first wanted to see a Palestinian state established. "We cannot pre-empt the fu-

ture," Information Minister Nasser Joudah said.

"[As for confederation or any other future relation between Jordan and the Palestinians, we say the most important thing at this juncture is that Jordan concentrates, as it has done, on helping and supporting Palestinians to attain their full rights on their national soil, meaning the establishment of their national state," he added.]

Such an arrangement could bring economic benefits, but it might also carry political problems for Jordan, whose population already includes a large Palestinian majority.

If a confederation were forged, Jordanians would become a much smaller minority, which could add to the prospect of internal instability.

In Jordan itself, what many citizens have been watching most intently is a drama unfolding in the royal family, which is still recovering from the shock of King Hussein's decision last month to dismiss his brother, Hassan, as crown prince, and to replace him with Abdullah, King Hussein's eldest son, who became king last Sunday.

It was very much noticed that Prince Hassan did not join King Abdullah on Tuesday in receiving mourners on the day after the state funeral.

The next day, Prince Hassan did stand shoulder-to-shoulder with the new king and he pledged in a public letter to his nephew, "I will not hold back love or knowledge or support."

In a separate show of unity, King Hussein's widow, Queen Noor, received female mourners alongside not only Queen Rania, King Abdullah's wife, but also Princess Mima, the new king's British-born mother, whom King Hussein divorced in 1971.

But associates of Prince Hassan say he remains bitter at his removal just two weeks before he would have become king and at a lack of sympathy shown by the Jordanian people, many of whom turned against him after his dismissal.

AMERICAN TOPICS

School for New-Tech, On-Line Scoundrels

Cheating on tests has long been a low-technology matter: the surreptitious glance to the side, microscopic handwriting on the thigh, signaling with crossed and uncrossed legs or earlobe tags. But that was yesterday.

A newer generation of students learned to grab term papers off the Internet from such Web sites as IvyEsays.com and the Evil House of Cheat, reports the Los Angeles Times. But with large-scale assessment testing, the rewards for cheating have risen sharply. Whole tests can be stolen so that answers can be sold to hundreds of test-takers. Today's cheaters can use such cutting-edge devices as wireless video cameras (\$150; or a bit more for versions concealed in pagers or eyeglass cases), miniature tape recorders, and electromagnetic radiation detectors that can read computer display terminals from a distance.

The growing technological capacity for cheating has coincided with a growing acceptance of the practice. Stephen Davis, a psychology professor at Emporia State University in Kansas, has surveyed more than 17,000 students across the country.

A 1991 survey found that 21 percent of college students admitted cheating at least once on an exam. By the late 1980s, Mr. Davis found, the figure had reached 50 percent, and has remained at that level. "It's the diploma at the end

of the trail that counts these days," Mr. Davis said, "not the process to get the diploma."

But there may be a way to re-create the sense of academic community that suppresses the temptation to cheat. Schools with honor codes, a Rutgers associate provost, Donald McCabe, found, have much lower levels of cheating.

Short Takes

The U.S. government will allow hunters to shoot hundreds of thousands of additional snow geese as they migrate north in coming months. The move aims to protect the health of vast stretches of tundra and salt marshes in the Hudson Bay area of Canada. The birds breed there during the warm months, destroying plant roots and topsoil as they grub into the tundra. Over the last three decades, the snow goose population has risen from 800,000 to about 5 million.

The Interior Department will allow 24 states to extend the hunting season and permit hunters to use owl-banned electronic goose calls. Hunters are expected to shoot up to 1.2 million of the birds.

A last bastion of male domination in the American workplace is the construction industry. While women make up about 46 percent of the total work force, they accounted for just 11 percent of construction industry employment in 1996, and that number included women working in marketing and support jobs. But, amid a construction boom, the total number of women in construction jumped to 780,000 in 1997, nearly 30 percent higher than the preceding year, The Dallas Morning News reported.

Brian Knowlton

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HEALTH/SCIENCE

A Thorny Question

Growing a Human From an Embryo Cell

By Gina Kolata
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — Six years ago, scientists in Canada published a remarkable paper in which they reported that they had grown entire mice from individual cells that they had plucked from mouse embryos.

At the time, it was seen by those in the small world of mouse researchers as a technological tour de force. But now, as scientists are eyeing human embryo cells as material for research, the experiment is giving rise to a thorny philosophical question.

If you can grow a mouse from a single embryo cell, you should in theory be able to grow a human from a single human embryo cell. And if you can grow a human from a single embryo cell, is that cell the moral equivalent of an entire embryo? Where, in other words, does the potential for human life lie?

There are no simple answers anymore, ethicists say. "There's a certain ambiguity or complexity that wasn't appreciated before," said Thomas Murray, director of the Hastings Center, which studies ethical issues.

But even debating the question is a political mine field, some experts say. The answers could determine whether scientists can go ahead with experiments on isolated human embryo cells that they hope will revolutionize medicine or whether they will be required to treat single human embryo cells with the same sort of restraint that they treat a human embryo.

"People who hold a pro-life view regard the human embryo from the moment of conception as a fully protectable human being," said Ronald Green, director of the Ethics Institute of Dartmouth College. And so discussions of whether embryo cells are the equivalent of embryos or the equivalent of human tissue, like skin or muscle, are being carried out with the abortion debates looming in the background. "That's a tremendous pressure in these discussions," Mr. Green said.

The mouse embryo cells that the Canadian scientists studied were of a special type, known as stem cells, that in theory can grow into any tissues or organs, although not — most assumed

until the experiment six years ago — into an entire healthy mouse. Researchers have worked with mouse embryonic stem cells for years, but only recently have scientists been able to isolate human embryonic stem cells, a result that has profound implications. Scientists speak of learning to push human embryonic stem cells along a pathway to become a spongy bone marrow, brimming with red and white blood cells, or a pancreas that could squirt out insulin for a person with diabetes.

There is just one problem: The government bans the use of its money for research in which human embryos are destroyed or discarded. The question was, where does that leave embryo stem cells? In a recent decision, lawyers for the Department of Health and Human Services wrote that human embryonic stem cells were not included in the research ban.

There is 'a tremendous pressure in these discussions.'

The reason, the National Institutes of Health wrote in a statement, was that the cells "are not an embryo as defined by statute" and that since human embryonic stem cells "do not have the capacity to develop into a human being, they cannot be considered human embryos consistent with the commonly accepted or scientific meaning of that term."

Nonsense, says Lee Silver, a mouse geneticist at Princeton University. If what matters, as the government lawyers wrote, is "the capacity to develop into a human being," then human embryonic stem cells are the moral equivalent of embryos. "Metaphysically, it's all the same," he said.

He thinks research with human embryo cells should be permitted but is offended, he said, by all the winking and nodding by scientists who do not want to admit the true potential of these cells to become a baby, if anyone wanted to try.

John Gearhart of the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, who led one of the two teams that isolated human embryonic stem cells, said the real question was whether the stem cells by themselves could grow into a person. "The bottom line has to be that these cells in and of themselves are not capable of doing that," he said.

Brigid Hogan of Vanderbilt University said: "There is a real biological difference between an embryonic stem cell and a fertilized egg."

New Harmony in the Universe

By John Noble Wilford
New York Times Service

CHICAGO — In a kind of summit conference on the universe, the world's leading cosmologists have assessed their theories and pronounced them healthy, saying that a wealth of new research that at first seemed puzzling turns out to strengthen the intellectual framework that has shaped decades of debate about the origin and evolution of the universe.

The astonishing discovery last year that the universe's expansion is not slowing down, as assumed, but seems to be speeding up jolted theorists of the Big Bang whose concept for the explosive beginning and expanding evolution of the universe had, as Sir Martin Rees of Cambridge University in England put it, "lived dangerously for 30 years."

An indispensable corollary, introduced in 1981 and known as inflation, had breathed new vitality into the theory with a plausible explanation of how, in its first microseconds, the universe made the transition from initially featureless conditions to the ripples out of which mighty galaxies would grow. But scientists had been short on evidence to support the reality of inflation.

So, in a six-day meeting here, the cosmologists were relieved to find their inflationary Big Bang theory more robust than ever.

"Two years ago, we couldn't have had this meeting — we didn't have the data," said Michael Turner of the University of Chicago, who organized the Pritzker Symposium and Workshop on the Status of Inflationary Cosmology. "Now we do, and the data say we have a flat universe."

Flatness is the large-scale geometry for the universe predicted by the inflation concept. It means that the expanding universe will not collapse or thin out into infinity, but should maintain a gravitational balance between the two alternatives through a coasting expansion.

The cosmologists were also a little surprised by the outbreak of good feelings over issues that used to provoke intellectual donnybrooks. No one questioned the Big Bang itself, which would not have been the case earlier in the decade.

Only a few entered mild objections when Alan Guth of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, originator of the first inflation concept, proclaimed, "Every inflation about inflation is incredibly solid," adding, "It's hard to imagine any alternative."

Yielding to this triumphant spirit, some of the bolder theorists seemed eager to



Michael Turner, left, and Sir Martin Rees at the cosmology conference.

crack even grander cosmic mysteries, like the possible existence of many more universes. Perhaps believing that cosmology abhors a vacuum of dispute, these bold ones stunned their colleagues by recommending the controversial anthropic principle be applied in determining the nature and properties of forces and matter in the universe. In anthropic reasoning, simply put, the physical laws of the universe must be such that they allow for the existence of humans.

The primordial spurt of inflation would seem to meet the anthropic standard. Inflation was supposed to leave on space an imprint of ripples, temperature fluctuations as microwave signatures of slight density variations.

The Cosmic Background Explorer spacecraft detected these signatures in 1991, and more detailed observations recently have convinced scientists that these are the seedbeds of all the large structure that eventually appeared in the universe, the stars and galaxies and clusters of galaxies. Without them, there would be no intelligent life. Cosmologists had thus traced the ultimate origin of galaxies back to the first instant after the Big Bang, and inflation, they said, had passed a critical test.

They also felt they were coming close, or close enough, to knowing the age of the universe: probably somewhere between 13 billion and 15 billion years old. Two teams of astronomers still lead over

differing calculations. But at least new research shows that, contrary to earlier reported estimates that were paradoxical and highly embarrassing, the oldest stars are not older than the universe.

All could agree that the evidence of a low-density universe is overwhelming. There is not enough mass in ordinary matter, the stuff of stars, planets and people, or even the hypothesized exotic particles called cold dark matter to stop the universe from expanding forever.

If standard models of inflationary cosmology are correct, a universe that does not eventually collapse on itself (a closed universe) or expand forever into infinity (an open one) should have a critical density, expressed as omega equals one, and a flat geometry. The gravity of a critical density should slow expansion to a kind of coasting equilibrium between collapse and vanishing infinity.

BY MOST measures reported at the meeting, based on studies of the light and motions of galaxy clusters, the density of mass in the universe may be no more than 20 percent to 30 percent or at most 40 percent of the theorized critical density. Only 5 percent is in the readily observed form of luminous stars, and perhaps another 10 percent is composed largely of the interstellar clouds of hydrogen gas. The rest is presumably mostly cold dark matter, unknown and

so far undetectable. Even the discovery, reported last year, that pervasive subatomic particles known as neutrinos have a slight mass does not add enough to the cosmic density to be significant, scientists said. This shortfall in matter density has led theorists to revive a concept that Einstein had entertained and discarded, a kind of hypothesized vacuum energy known as the cosmological constant. No one has detected it or been able to explain its properties, except that the cosmological constant must be evenly distributed energy that exerts a negative pressure to counteract the restraining gravity of matter.

As a result of evidence for an accelerating universe, Sir Martin said, "Stock in the cosmological constant has gone up enormously."

Early last year, two rival astronomy teams reported observations of superovas, exploding stars, both near and far. The measure of their velocities provided the first direct, if tentative, evidence of an accelerating expansion of the cosmos.

Mr. Turner called this the "smoking gun" for something else in the universe besides matter, ordinary or exotic, and that something must be the "missing energy." This could be the unvarying cosmological constant or some other form of repulsive energy in empty space, like the hypothesized quintessence, which supposedly varies over time.

In this case, the standard model for an all-matter flat universe is dead — but lives on among cosmologists as a matter-plus-exotic-energy flat universe. Still, some scientists cautioned against writing off the possibility of an open universe — what if there is not enough vacuum energy to reach critical density? Though the original inflation models hinged on a flat universe, theorists have now suggested ways to have an open universe within the framework of inflation.

With so many important questions still unanswered, P. James Peebles of Princeton University worried about premature celebration of a theory triumphant. "This is a wildly healthy field, but still in its early days," he said. "We've got a lot to do yet."

Mr. Peebles ended the symposium on a note of introspection about how successful science, particularly physics, is done. His division of the community was between classicists and romantics, defining the two with a musical analogy. Bach was a classicist, inventive but following a sharply defined paradigm, and Wagner a romantic, unbounded, soaring from conventional forms.

"The parallels with our present situation are absolutely uncanny," he said.

Strange World of the Math Crank

By George Johnson
New York Times Service

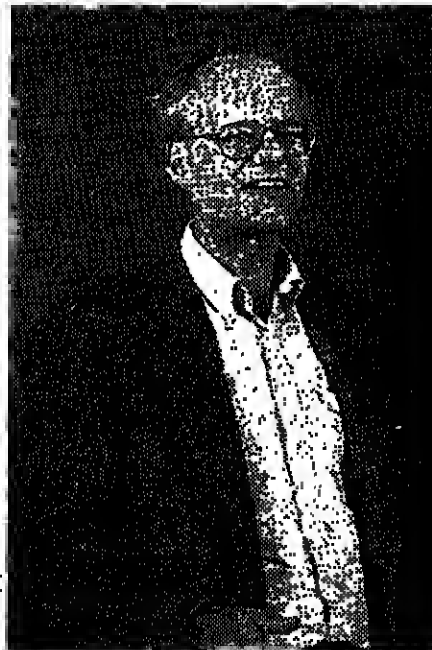
NEW YORK — The letter, dated Christmas Day 1998 and addressed to a professor at the Niels Bohr Institute in Copenhagen, began portentously: "Nowadays, we seek to comprehend our comprehensions and call that comprehensiveness knowledge in the mistaken belief that as a science it is immortal. Such omniscience diffuses like Helium-3 into the penitential mien of omnipotent impotency within any God-head such that any caveat actor is saved."

Within a few sentences, the writer was holding forth on Heisenberg's Uncertainty Principle and "the concept of nothing" as the empty set, before launching into speculations involving number theory. "And if 1 is excluded from being prime... it's enough to make me conjecture that infinity's prime and Riemann's Zeta function accounts for fractional change subconsciously just for the Higg's boson with an involuntarily matrix of ogdoad parity as midwife!"

The letter was typed single-spaced with the tiniest of margins and embellished with hand-drawn diagrams and colored annotations. Copies were sent to a list that included the linguist Noam Chomsky, the physicist John Archibald Wheeler, David Deutsch and Stephen Hawking, and the mathematician John Casti.

"It has all the hallmarks of a crank," said Casti, who is affiliated with the Technical University of Vienna and the Santa Fe Institute in New Mexico. "It's amazing all the stuff you can get onto a single piece of paper."

But was it not just possible that couched in the obscure mix of mathematics, physics and Egyptian mysticism ("ogdoad parity" refers to four pairs of gods with names like Darkness, Absence and Endlessness) there lay an important insight?



Underwood Dudley tracks the breed.

Didn't two Cambridge University mathematicians dismiss the great self-taught Indian number theorist Srinivasa Ramanujan as a crackpot when he sent them long eccentric letters from India early in this century? Only their colleague G.H. Hardy had the foresight to recognize Ramanujan as a genius. And didn't the great German mathematician Carl Friedrich Gauss foolishly throw away unread a ground-breaking paper from his young Norwegian colleague Niels Henrik Abel calling it "another of those monstrosities?"

Casti was not too worried about the possibility. Though the stories of Ramanujan and Abel linger in the backs of mathematicians' minds as they aim the latest unsolicited epistle toward the wastebasket, most become quickly jaded. "After several hundred of these

things you get into that mode," said Ian Stewart, a mathematician at Warwick University in England. "It has to do with your self-preservation."

The writers of these letters range from pretty good amateur mathematicians who have made a mistake somewhere or skipped over an important step to people who are completely mad. "You get very strange mail in 17 different fonts and 14 colors and with an idiosyncratic grammar."

Many of the correspondents are intelligent, well-meaning, indefatigable souls who, in their untrained way, share the fascination mathematicians feel for the invisible world of numbers. And many are simply cranks.

Physicists get their share of mail from amateurs attempting to reconcile quantum mechanics and general relativity or to show that Einstein was wrong. But the greater ease with which one can speculate about numbers has caused the mathematical crank to become enshrined in academic folklore.

The phenomenon is even documented in a 1992 book called "Mathematical Cranks" by Underwood Dudley, a mathematician at DePaul University in Indiana.

"I've been at this for a decade and can't pin down exactly what it is that makes a crank a crank," said Mr. Dudley, who has met a few in person. "They are usually men, old men. All are godless. None of them are fat." A characteristic he attributes to their obsessive personalities. "It's like obsession — you can tell a crank when you see one."

With recent films like "Good Will Hunting" and "Pi" giving mathematics a romantic sheen and popular new biographies romanticizing the lives of the eccentric mathematicians Paul Erdős and John Nash, the flow of crank mail will only increase, predicted John Allen Paulos, a mathematician at Temple University in Philadelphia.

Study Looks at Best Ways to Read to Children

By Erica Goode
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — A mother pulls her 4-year-old daughter onto her lap, opens the book "Madeline" and begins to read. "Do you see the 12 little girls in a line?" she asks, pointing at the picture.

At preschool, the teacher takes a different approach: She reads the book all the way through, then asks the children, "Did the little girls like Miss Clavel?"

Which style of interactive reading is most likely to increase a child's vocabulary skills? According to a study by New Zealand researchers, it depends on the child.

Children whose vocabulary skills

are already fairly advanced seem to benefit most from a more demanding "performance oriented" interactive style, said Elaine Reese of the University of Otago in Dunedin, a co-author of the study.

In that format, Ms. Reese said, the adult introduces the book — explaining what it is about and asking the child to predict what will happen — then reads through the pages, and afterward poses a series of questions that explore the book and relate to the child's own life. Less advanced children, on the other hand, seem to profit more from a less demanding "describer" style of reading, Ms. Reese said, in which the adult interrupts the narrative frequently, pointing to the labeling pic-

tures and commenting on the story. Forty-eight New Zealand 4-year-olds participated in the study, a report of which was published in a recent issue of the journal Developmental Psychology. Adults read the boys and girls 32 books over a six-week period using one of three different reading styles. Researchers tested the children's vocabulary skills at the beginning and the end of the study.

Children who entered the study with higher initial scores on the vocabulary test showed greater gains when adults readers used the performance-oriented interactive style.

Those with lower initial vocabulary scores gained most from the describer style of interaction.



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International Education

Can Adjuncts Do the Job?

By Linda Perlstein

WASHINGTON — Compared to other industries, universities' product — knowledge — may be more abstruse, and their function more complex than turning out widgets. The way they have reshaped their work force, however, is taken right from the pages of Corporate America's handbook.

The "casualization" of labor — allowing the attrition of full-time staff, then replacing them with cheaper part-timers — has become commonplace in business, and just as much so in higher education. But while the poor conditions that part-time, or adjunct, professors face, such as temporary contracts or lack of benefits, are no different than those endured by part-timers in other fields, there is a growing clamor that the difficulties suffered by their "customers" — the students — are unique and intolerable.

Lately, universities have been losing out in the zero-sum game of public funding and are under pressure to control tuition costs, as graduate programs are churning out record numbers of PhDs. What used to be a temporary fix for sudden changes in enrollment or staffing needs is now, at many places, a way of life. Part-time professors make up nearly half of the faculty in America's institutes of higher education, compared to one-fifth 30 years ago, according to the U.S. Department of Education.

The handscrabble existence of part-timers who piece together a living course by course (usually getting between \$1,500 and \$2,000 for each) generally includes no health insurance, or phone number, or cost-of-living raises. They often commute between several colleges. Their schools don't pay their way to conferences, or their journal subscriptions. In some cases, they don't even get a library card.

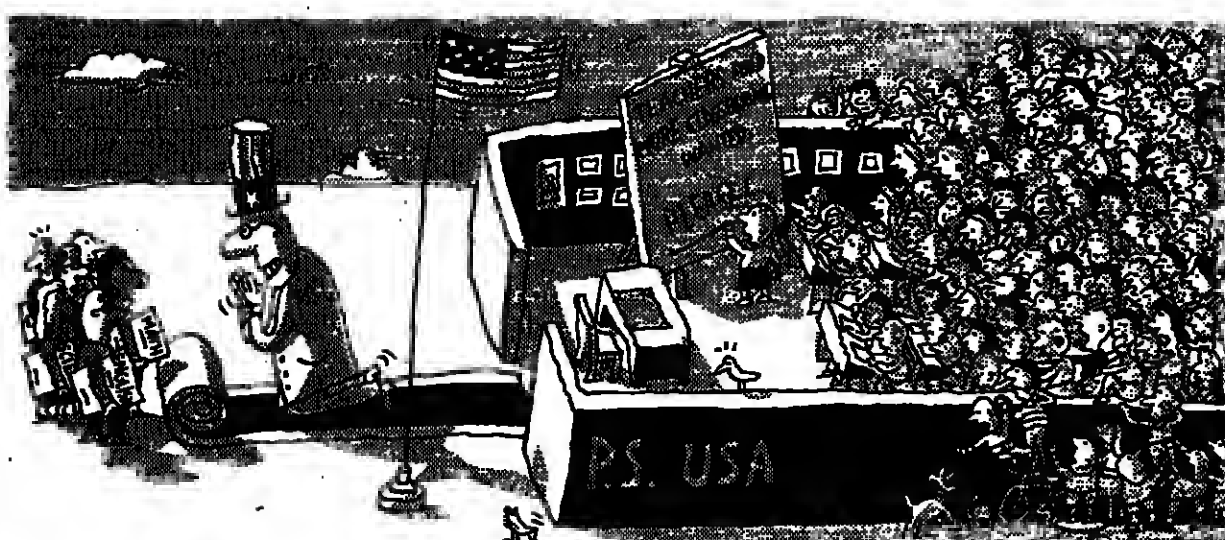
It used to be that being a "gypsy scholar" or a "freeway flyer," as they are sometimes called, was temporary. When a full-time, tenure-track professor left, a part-timer could slip into that slot. Today, universities, particularly community colleges, just hire another part-timer or two instead. While half of part-timers wants to be part-time, another half doesn't, and they are no longer seen as potential permanent professors, but permanently damned goods.

"When the numbers of part-time faculty first started mushrooming, there was a lot of here one semester, gone the next," said Chris McVay, who teaches African-American literature, German, English composition — whatever she can scrape up — at Kent State University in Ohio. "Now, I'm telling you, it's the same faces, semester after semester after semester."

The notion of a frazzled class of workers trampled in a rigid caste system has rankled many educators, including the American Association of State Colleges and Universities, which last month bemoaned their "frequently oppressive conditions."

But don't cry for the professors, says P.D. Lesko, editor of *Adjunct Advocate* magazine. "They're not 'poor adjuncts,'" she said. "They are people with graduate degrees who earn \$45 an hour." Instead, she and others say, pity their students

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A Fresh Look at 'Special Needs'

By Robin Herman

PARIS — The children may have trouble with reading and writing and especially with spelling. Math can also be difficult. Once called "slow learners," they are now known as "learning disabled" in the United States, children with "learning difficulties" in Britain and France, and simply "children in need of special education" in Denmark.

Often ignored, or consigned to separate schools or hospitals if their disabilities were severe, these children are now gaining rights under a developing body of law in European countries. The laws specify that they are entitled to an education that meets their needs — in a normal classroom setting.

The European trend toward "integration," as it is called, follows by perhaps 20 years the "mainstreaming" of such children in American schools, where special education teachers, as opposed to medical experts, use nonconventional teaching techniques to unlock learning potential in a range of children, including those with subtle perception difficulties.

difficulties.

dicapped, you should have the same education as others," said Joergen Greve, head of the European Agency for Development in Special Needs Education, a two-and-a-half-year-old agency of the European Commission. "You may need special materials and teaching, but you are not an ill person. It's a more humanistic approach."

The range of integration and the legal recognition of special needs still varies enormously across Europe. Denmark's law is the strongest — and in fact makes no distinction between learning disabled children and others. It dates from the 1980s, when special education was taken out of the realm of social services and placed in the Education Ministry.

"There is no special categorization; the same legislation covers 100 percent of the students," explained Joergen Hansen, head of the department of special needs education at the Ministry of Education in Denmark. "We don't have any description of which groups have a right to special education. Every time you have a new student, you have a new case."

Thus an average of 15 percent of Danish students are referred to special education, he said, with nearly all re-

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Developing nations aim to keep children in school while reducing the problem of 'wastage.' *Page 15.*

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The United States has fallen short of the goals set at its 'education summit' in 1990.
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Singapore woos top Western universities to a new educational hub. *Page 13*

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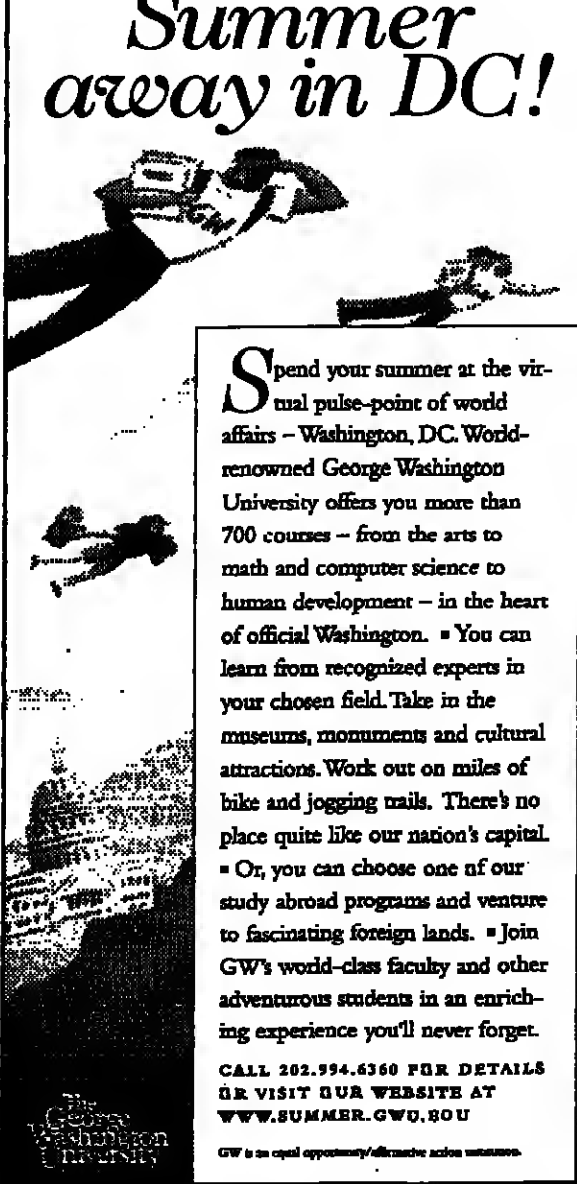
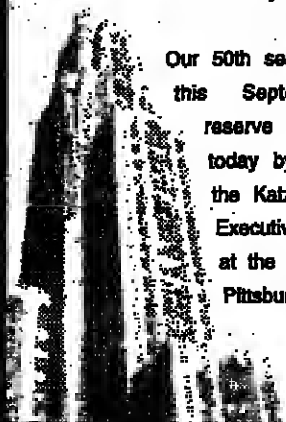
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INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION / A SPECIAL REPORT

With Crunch at Home, British Universities Look Overseas

By Tom Buerkle

LONDON — For generations, British beacons of higher education like the universities of Oxford and Cambridge have attracted foreign students to these shores. But increasingly it is the universities themselves that are sailing abroad.

Using every technique from distance learning by correspondence or the Internet to joint degree programs with affiliated institutions overseas, British universities are reaching more and more foreign students where they live.

The number of foreign students taking British university courses overseas has exploded from almost nothing 15 years ago to well over 100,000 today and is fast approaching the 200,000 foreigners who actually matriculate in Britain.

The type of program varies widely, and some academics question whether a degree earned overseas is as good as one obtained in Britain. But the trend appears likely to grow, inspiring imitation by universities in other major countries.

"Australia and the U.K. are indeed market leaders, and the majority of developed industrial economies will follow their lead during the next 5 to 10 years," said a recent report, entitled "The Internationalization of Higher Education," by Paul Bennett, for the Institute of Development Studies at the University of Sussex in Brighton.

The reasons for the growth are simple. Foreign students are a vital source of income at a time when domestic funding is under so much strain that the British government this year introduced fees of £1,000 (\$1,632) a year for students.

"There's a resource crunch in higher education," said Keith Williams, director of academic development at the Open University, Britain's first and largest virtual university. "It's pushing people to look toward more flexible means of provision to expand higher education."

AT THE SAME TIME, the global economic slowdown has reduced the number of foreign students able to pay full tuition and living expenses at a British campus.

According to the British Council, a government-funded body that promotes British culture and education, the number of students coming to British universities from Malaysia fell by 44 percent this year, to 2,127.

But British degrees remain highly prized in today's global marketplace, so more foreigners are enrolling without leaving home.

"There are people who are joining the program because of the Asian economic crisis," said Susan Gidman, deputy director of external programs at the University of London.

A student can obtain a degree through the external program for only £2,000 in fees, a fraction of the £6,500 to £7,000 it costs per year for a foreign student to study on a London campus.

In 1997, the most recent year for which statistics are available, the University of London had more than 22,000 students studying in 157 countries.

The bulk were in Southeast Asia, with more than 16,000 in Malaysia, Singapore and Hong Kong. Those have traditionally been the largest markets for British universities because of colonial ties, the widespread use of the English language and the sheer demand and ability to pay for education.

The Open University also has experienced dramatic growth, with 21,000 of its 165,000 students now living outside Britain, including 6,700 in Eastern Europe, 5,500 in the European Union and 4,300 in Singapore. The number of foreigners studying abroad has grown by 36 percent in just the last three years.

In addition to running the largest outreach programs, the University of London and the Open University pride themselves on retaining tight control over their course offerings.

The University of London works with some 130 academic institutions abroad, some of which are more marketing conduits while others have been approved to provide facilities and staff to support external students. External students follow the same syllabus as their counterparts in Britain and take the same exams, albeit at a distance, which are corrected by the

same examiners.

"The quality of the degree they are getting is the same," Ms. Gidman said.

Other British universities offer a variety of study programs abroad, from joint degree programs with foreign institutions to franchise arrangements, in which a British-designed course is instructed and administered by a foreign university.

Franchise courses are particularly popular in Greece, one of the biggest European markets for British universities.

A lot of the expansion comes from Britain's former "polytechnics," institutions that obtained university status in 1992 along with the freedom to award degrees where and how they saw fit.

But the fast growth inevitably raises questions of quality, particularly when courses are delivered through an overseas institution.

"Universities have a very weighty responsibility to ensure that standards are maintained, wherever and however programs are being delivered," said Peter Williams, director of institutional review at the Quality Assurance Agency, which enforces standards and quality control among British universities.

The agency audits perhaps 30 to 40 overseas arms of British universities each year to verify their academic standards,

examination procedures and the quality of any partner university. A chief concern is language. Because some foreign programs are instructed in local languages, a foreign student conceivably could obtain a British degree without speaking English.

The agency plans to revise its code of conduct this spring to recommend that British degrees obtained overseas stipulate the language of instruction and the location.

There are signs of resistance to extension programs in some countries. After all, British universities are a direct competitor to local institutions.

FOLLOWING its return to Chinese control in 1997, Hong Kong has required that foreign universities register their courses with the authorities unless they are offered in partnership with a local institution. Israel imposed a similar requirement last year, while Dubai banned advertising by foreign universities.

Still, the demand for university degrees seems sure to remain healthy, and the competition to provide them may only heat up.

"If British universities don't provide it, then they are going to go to the Australians or the Americans," said Michelle Conly, distance learning manager at the British Council.

TOM BUEKLE is on the staff of the International Herald Tribune.

Foreign students are a vital source of income at a time of funding strains.

Europe Takes a Fresh Look at 'Special Needs'

Continued from Page 11

ceiving this extra help in the regular classroom. Additionally, the law requires that educational assistance be given from birth, so approximately 8 percent of preschool children also receive special instruction.

"We know that a reading problem is not created in the school but long before they come to school," Mr. Hansen said. "So special education is given in the direction of language development."

Dyslexia, one of the most common learning difficulties, causes problems distinguishing and ordering symbols, such as numbers and letters. It

affects about 8 percent of the population, perhaps 4 percent to such a degree that they need extra help in school, according to Robin Salter of the European Dyslexia Association.

In Britain, "There have been huge moves forward," said Lindsay Peer, head of the British Dyslexia Association.

She cited a 1994 "code of practice" law that sets down a timetable for promptly identifying a child's special educational needs and providing appropriate teaching.

And attitudes toward dyslexia have improved, she said, prompted in part by recently published scientific evidence that the disability results from a difference in

brain structure, not from brain damage or emotional factors.

In the Nordic countries and Spain and Italy, the educational philosophy is similar to Denmark's, with nearly all children, whatever their learning difficulties, being helped in regular schools.

BUT in Belgium, France, the Netherlands and Germany, special education remains largely a segregated enterprise. Children with the most serious difficulties are sent to specialized schools while the others remain in the

mainstream, where they get scant help. Mr. Greve said these countries still tend to have a medical approach to learning difficulties, treating them as physical or psychological disorders instead of a problem requiring different teaching approaches.

"We are in a very psychologically oriented culture," said Ariel Conte, head of CORIDYS, an advocacy group in France for people with neuropsychological dysfunctions. "Parents waste at least two to three years with psychologists before they start getting educational help."

In French public schools, teachers have not generally received training in recognizing or teaching children with learning disabilities, according to a report by the European Commission's special needs agency. Special education is truly a specialty, reserved for instructors at institutions dedicated to blind or deaf children or children with severe mental or emotional problems.

Another problem, Mr. Conte believes, is that French parents rarely know where to go for the evaluation, counseling and education of their

children should go to school." In North Wales, Marian Morphet meets each year with teachers and a psychologist to review the educational needs of her son Richard, 14, whose dyslexia was discovered at age seven.

"He would read a word on one line and see it on the next line, and it was a totally different word for him," she said. Mrs. Morphet, who said she had to pressure school officials to test him because he otherwise appeared so bright.

But now Richard gets individual instruction one hour a day from a special education teacher in his school's "resource center."

His school also gave him a laptop computer to help him write and correct his class work.

"He's getting a lot of help now, and he's got a lot more confidence," said Mrs. Morphet, who believes sending Richard to a segregated school for handicapped children "would have brought him down further." Richard recently was moved out of a remedial English class into a normal grade level class.

European officials see a looming problem stemming from the new cross-border job mobility of European Union citizens. For children who already have difficulty with the written language, a second language system can be insurmountable. And it may be hard for teachers to recognize that missteps in a second language come from a learning disability.

For more information on European special education: <http://www.european-agency.org/urlealhome.nsf>.

ROBIN HERMAN is a Paris-based journalist.

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INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION / A SPECIAL REPORT

For-Profit Colleges Divide Malaysians

By Thomas Fuller

SUBANG JAYA, Malaysia — If it weren't for the students wandering the halls with books under their arms, one might be forgiven for thinking Taylor's College was the headquarters of a medium-sized corporation.

The college has a marketing office and a "Quality Department." A sign on the door of the latter announces that the school has been certified under ISO 9002 guidelines—a distinction usually reserved for factories, not institutions of higher learning.

In fact, financially speaking, Taylor's is a corporation. The for-profit college has shareholders who earn dividends. Until a few months ago, it was controlled by a group that runs Malaysia's largest finance company. Today, it is controlled by a sugar baron.

Colleges like Taylor's

have proved very popular among Malaysian students. There are about 500 private tertiary institutions in the country today, up from just a handful two decades ago.

But their success has been greeted with apprehension among some educators who say profit-oriented institutions treat education like a commodity.

"The problem with these private institutions is that there is a bias in offering programs that are readily marketable," said Rustam Sani, a professor at the University of Malaya, the country's leading state-owned university. "We lose the totality of a university education—literature and history are almost abandoned."

"For a developing nation like ours, those are the areas we cannot afford to lose."

Most of the degrees offered by colleges like Taylor's are science or business-related. Taylor's dropped a history program last year because, one professor at the college

said, the administration said there was no market for it.

Administrators at private colleges defend their curricula, saying they are simply offering the courses that students want.

And even critics of the private, profit-oriented colleges acknowledge that they play an important role in Malaysia, offering a tertiary education in a system with a limited number of spots at state-sponsored universities.

Taylor's, one of the oldest private programs in Malaysia, began in 1969 by offering Australian pre-university degrees that served as a first step for students eager to study abroad. "Back in those days, public university places were very limited," said Charles Chew, vice president of Taylor's College. "These programs were good substitutes."

Colleges like Taylor's have since expanded their programs to include "twinning programs" with foreign

universities. That allows Malaysian students to obtain a foreign university degree without the cost of studying abroad.

Foreign universities provide the curriculum and the teaching materials—and ultimately the degree. The local college provides the facilities and the professors, who must be approved by the foreign institution.

FOR students eager for the prestige of a foreign degree, the twinning programs offer substantial savings: A three-year program done at Taylor's in Kuala Lumpur costs about 50,000 ringgits (\$13,150). That is less than it costs to send a Malaysian student to Britain for one year, according to Mr. Chew.

Critics of the programs say students are obtaining the foreign degrees but missing out on less tangible aspects of a college education. "There is a notion that a

university is more than just a place to acquire skills," said a Taylor's professor who wished to remain anonymous.

"It's a very precious space and time in our lives. But my students are being given very narrow, career-driven objectives."

Also at issue are the facilities provided by the private institutions. While the curriculum is the same as their foreign "twinning" university, the campuses, libraries and activities available to students often differ greatly.

"Academic reputation is based on so many things. You can't easily transfer a university to a new location and get the same results," Mr. Rustam said. "It's a very mechanical, business notion of education," he added.

Taylor's College, which has one of the biggest libraries of all private colleges in Malaysia, has 12 stacks of books at its main branch—about 30,000 titles.

"Try to write a research

paper with those facilities," said the Taylor's professor. "I think you would find it very difficult."

Nonetheless, the programs have been very popular with students and with the foreign universities. About 100 foreign universities have been licensed by the Malaysian Ministry of Education to participate in the programs, including Australia's Monash University, Britain's

Manchester University and other universities from the United States, Canada and New Zealand, most of them large state-run universities.

The benefits for these foreign institutions are clear. "They get a royalty," said Mr. Chew of Taylor's College. "It's like a franchisee."

At Taylor's, representatives of the foreign universities visit regularly to check on the curriculum and other academic related issues.

The Malaysian Ministry of Education also monitors the



A Taylor's College student walks past a sign advertising Australian education near Kuala Lumpur.

quality of the programs through regular audits. Quality is clearly a concern among educators, especially given the private colleges' corporate culture.

"Colleges and universities should not allow greed to cloud their vision as educators," wrote Chok Sui Ling in the New Straits Times recently. "Profits made should be put to good use—to continually upgrade the quality of courses and facilities."

Sumit Mandal, a lecturer at the state-run Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, said: "In some ways, the private colleges probably run more efficiently. But when you are owned by a corporation, there are just too many checks and balances. It's definitely not a liberal arts education."

THOMAS FULLER is a correspondent for the International Herald Tribune based in Kuala Lumpur.

Singapore Woos Top Schools With Vision of Regional Hub

By Michael Richardson

SINGAPORE — Despite recession and uncertainty clouding Asia's future, Singapore has made a strong start in implementing a plan to attract up to 10 "world-class" academic institutions within a decade to help turn the island-state into a regional education hub.

The University of Chicago Graduate School of Business announced recently that it will establish a permanent campus in Singapore next year—the first in Asia by a leading U.S. business school.

In September, one of Europe's top business schools, the European Institute of Business Administration, INSEAD, located in Fontainebleau near Paris, announced it would open a full campus in Singapore in January 2000, its first outside France.

Johns Hopkins University, based in Baltimore, said last year that it would collaborate with the National University of Singapore to develop joint courses, such as masters degrees in clinical research, specialist training and continuing

medical education. Johns Hopkins also plans to set up a teaching hospital in Singapore and a research center that will focus on clinical and applied biomedical research.

On Jan. 22, Singapore's other university, Nanyang Technological University, said that it would work with Pittsburgh-based Carnegie Mellon University to offer a postgraduate program in "financial engineering."

The Massachusetts Institute of Technology is also committed to tertiary education courses in Singapore.

Officials of the various foreign universities planning to establish themselves in Singapore said they were doing so because of the island-state's advanced infrastructure, attractive financial incentives offered by the government and a conviction that strong demand existed in the region for their services.

Deputy Prime Minister Tony Tan of Singapore said in September that the government's Economic Development Board planned to attract up to 10 world-class educational institutions to establish a significant presence in Singapore within 10 years.

"These institutions will focus on postgraduate education and research," he said. "They will cover a spectrum

of disciplines from business and management to engineering, medicine and applied sciences. Once we succeed, Singapore will become the hub of choice for talent, research and development, innovation, and knowledge-driven industries."

MR. TAN added that to be competitive in the long term, Singapore must take full advantage of the evolving knowledge-based economy as both manufacturing and services industries exploited rapid advances in computer and telecommunications technology to become global players.

The Singapore operation of the University of Chicago Graduate School of Business will complement its campuses in Chicago and Barcelona, underscoring the way

in which business education is becoming increasingly international.

"This is the first time a business school will offer a globally integrated executive MBA program on three continents taught entirely by its regular faculty at permanent campus locations," said Robert Hamada, the school's dean.

Its Singapore-based MBA program is intended to appeal to companies that want to adjust to the rapidly changing business environment without losing key executives for long periods. A full-time MBA course can take 12 to 24 months to complete.

The Chicago Graduate School's Singapore course will be taught in 16 one-week modules spread over 19 months to allow executives to continue working full time while traveling throughout

the Asia-Pacific region to attend classes for intense periods of group study.

The INSEAD operation in Singapore will be considerably larger than that of the Chicago Graduate School. INSEAD's campus will be built in four phases at a total estimated cost of 60 million Singapore dollars (\$35.5 million). When completed in 2016, the 2.9 hectare campus will be of comparable size to its Fontainebleau campus.

"Although the financial crisis will affect growth in Asia in the short run, INSEAD believes that, in the long term, the Asia-Pacific region will continue to be one of the principal drivers of the global economy," said the

INSEAD dean, Antonio Borges. "The region's fundamental need for management education remains unchanged."

As in Fontainebleau, INSEAD's Singapore school will offer a full-time, one-year MBA degree, as well as short-term executive education. Starting next year, INSEAD Singapore will accept 45 MBA students and 1,500 participants in its executive education courses. By the time the campus is completed, it hopes those numbers will have increased to 480 and 4,500 respectively.

INSEAD's tuition fees for the MBA course starting in January are \$28,500. The Chicago Graduate School

program will cost each student \$52,000.

Both institutions are confident that a market exists for their courses, despite the economic downturn in Asia. So is the Singapore government.

"In fact, the current economic crisis has helped many companies in this region real-

ize the importance of investing in human capital, especially through effective education and training," said Singapore's education minister, Teo Chee Hean.

MICHAEL RICHARDSON is the International Herald Tribune's Asia editor.

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INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION / A SPECIAL REPORT

Asians Redefine British Boarding School

By Thomas Crampton

BANGKOK — Generations of British aristocrats and empire builders shipped their children home to study at an elite coterie of costly boarding schools famous for bland food and a rigorous classical education.

Now, however, parents in Asia can save on the airfare but still get a brand-name diploma thanks to several overseas franchises opened in the last few years.

Harrow School, Dulwich College and Winchester College now have desks to schools in Southeast Asia that claim to offer the traditional British boarding school experience while upholding identical academic standards of the parent school for a fraction of the price.

Students at the six-month-old Harrow International School sport straw boater hats similar to those worn at the school's 427-year-old namesake, but instead of playing games on verdant cricket pitches, they kick around soccer balls in an empty concrete parking lot near central Bangkok.

"The brims are not quite as stiff as those made in England," said the school's headmaster, Stuart Morris. "We have had our initial troubles, but we do intend to be a good deal more than just another international school. The Harrow name is our trump card."

Thailand's economic

bubble burst just as plans for the school got under way, bankrupting the original investors and sending the school from fields outside the capital to unused commercial space adjoining a condominium near central Bangkok.

For now the school has 170 students, 75 percent of whom are Thai, and none of whom are British. In the next few months, empty apartments in the condominium will be divided into boarding houses, which Mr. Morris expects to fill with weekly boarders, eager to avoid lengthy commutes through Bangkok traffic, as well as pupils from other Asian countries.

Mr. Morris said his school, at about 300,000 baht (\$8,105) per year, costs about one third that of Harrow in Britain. Certain students, he added, will even find that his school has advantages over its British counterpart. "We concentrate very much on science and mathematics. I don't know how much Mandarin or Japanese Harrow offers," Mr. Morris said.

In fact, staff at the foreign franchises often don't know the original schools terribly well. Nobody working at the Harrow International School has taught at its British namesake, while just one teacher at Dulwich International College also worked at the original school in London.

The headmasters from both schools insist that quality is assured by an active board of governors and regular inspec-

tions for which the parent school is paid an annual fee. "The name is important in terms of assuring parents that their children will get the whole range of what a British independent school offers," said John Richards, director of the British Council in Thailand, a government-funded organization that advises on education. "Exam results are a narrow measure of success."

Such well-regarded schools as Dulwich, Harrow and Winchester will jealously protect their good name and should indicate that the best possible standards for a boarding education are being applied.

But some British-style boarding schools in Asia, however, reckon that direct association with a prominent school based in the former colonial power can also cause problems.

"To call our school the Eton of the East, as the former headmaster did, can upset

parents," said Patrick Briggs, principal of Kolej Tanjong Ja'far in Malaysia. "This use of famous school names is nothing more than an advertising thing. Here in Malaysia it grates with the colonial past. Parents really care whether we can send their children to the best universities."

NATHANEE Uthayakumar, 17, who wants to be a chemist for a petroleum company, said students at Harrow work much harder than pupils in Thai schools and the uniform is stricter.

Compared to Marlborough House school in England, the pace of teaching at Harrow in Bangkok is slower, according to Edward Snow, 13, a Harrow pupil whose mother teaches at Harrow in Bangkok.

"Sometimes there are simple words that English

speakers know but the teacher has to explain to everyone else," Edward said, adding that Thai food was much better than British fare.

"I liked the baked beans at my last school, but they basically dumped food on your tray and you could only say big or small," he said. "Here I can't even count the number of dishes to choose from."

Transplanting a British institution overseas presents particular challenges, said Christopher Charleson, headmaster of Dulwich International College.

"It would be completely wrong to impose three centuries of tradition on a school that is just a few years old," Mr. Charleson said. "The climate, for one thing, made us change the boarding routine and uniform and introduce new sports activities."

Based on the Thai resort island of Phuket, Dulwich International College's sprawl-

ing facilities include a main building copied from the original school in London, an Olympic-sized swimming pool and a vast area for playing games.

Sixty percent of students at Dulwich are Thai while about 10 percent are British, Mr. Charleson said.

Unlike Harrow in Bangkok, which offers standard British A-levels, the 270 secondary school students at Dulwich in Phuket work toward an International Baccalaureate diploma.

"The International Baccalaureate gives students more flexibility in terms of going to university in countries besides the United Kingdom," Mr. Charleson said, adding that about one third of graduates attend university in Britain.

THOMAS CRAMPTON is a correspondent for the International Herald Tribune in Bangkok.



Stuart Morris, headmaster of Harrow School near Bangkok, with some of his pupils in straw boater hats.

In Britain, Schools Repackage Softer Image

By Barbara Rosen

LONDON — For generations, parents have sent their children to British boarding schools for an experience often described as "longhairs and old boys." But economic times and social attitudes have changed. These days, cold dormitories and colder showers are more likely to put off, rather than attract, prospective parents — not to mention their progeny. And the schools themselves have had to learn a hard lesson: adapt or die.

Government statistics show there were 814 private-sector boarding schools in England in 1993; in 1998, there were 772. Today's industry is stronger and leaner, advocates say, but most definitely not meaner.

The boarding experience today would be largely unrecognizable to the "old boys and girls" of yore. And while many schools used to rely heavily on family descendants to fill the rolls, these days it is rare to find a boarding school without a designated marketing person.

"Schools have become much more of a service in-

dustry" over the last four or five years, "very conscious of their customer and providing what their customer needs," said Ann Williamson of the Boarding Education Alliance, a promotional group representing about 180 schools.

"The schools have in fact changed, but the public doesn't seem to be aware of this," Ms. Williamson said. Today, she said, "What you get out of boarding school is continuity, consistency and security." She added, "It's not sending your child away. It's giving your child a second home."

Research commissioned by the Boarding Education Alliance in 1998 found that, in order to survive, boarding schools had to update their image and aim it at different groups: new money as well as old, first-time boarding families as well as longtime ones, students as well as parents.

Today's customers want boarders to be comfortable, well fed and easily accessible to their families, Ms. Williamson said, adding that 40

percent of boarders' parents live within an hour's drive.

"I was very lucky if I ever got to see my parents at all in three months," recalled Jane Laing, head of Friends' School, Saffron Walden, in Essex. And she couldn't call home either. Today, most students at Friends' have phone cards, "and they can telephone their parents anytime they want, within reason," she said. Many schools offer regular e-mail contact as well.

OFTEN, the schools said, day pupils actually ask to board. At St. Andrew's School in Eastbourne, research found many day pupils wanted to sleep at school.

So two years ago, St. Andrew's began the "sleepover." Parents can phone on little or no notice and get their child dinner, bed and breakfast for £15 (\$20) a night. "We can provide teddy bears and we can provide toothbrushes," said Pam Duffell, an English teacher who also

serves as director of marketing. "When you're thinking about paying a baby-sitter, you're evidently better off."

It has been such a success — bed occupancy jumped 400 percent in the first year — that St. Andrew's now offers five nights for the price of four, Ms. Duffell said. Full-time boarding becomes increasingly popular as final exams approach, she added.

Such "flexi-boarding" has become a pillar of boarding school success, answering the needs of parents with business trips as well as those of students with extracurricular activities.

Friends' even offers sleepover weekends built around sports and arts and crafts, which are aimed as much at children from other schools as their own. "It isn't the kind of thing that we would have been doing five years ago," Ms. Laing said. "We do a lot more active marketing, as a school than we used to."

Near York, Queen Ethelburga's College, a secondary school, uses national TV and radio and worldwide print ads to trumpet its many attractions. Bedrooms (some singles) are equipped with satellite TV and video, plus pay phone with answering machine, CD-player and

heated towel rack. Older girls (boys board only until age 11) have access to a sauna and solarium.

Queen Ethelburga's was founded in 1912; in 1991, it was bought by a parent/businessman and moved to its present site. Over the years, more has changed than just what meets the eye, said the principal, Erica Taylor. While students are still largely white, she said, the social-economic mix of families, as well as what they want out of boarding school, is much different.

Previously, "The children we had had mothers who were old girls, whereas our present population are almost exclusively first-time buyers," Ms. Taylor said. "Before it used to be old money, and now it's new money."

The vast majority of Queen Ethelburga's graduates go on to higher education, compared with about 10 percent in the old days, Ms. Taylor said. "On the old site we were academically reasonable, and it would be fair to say we turned out young ladies," she said. "Now we are academically good," and turning out "career women."

BARBARA ROSEN is a freelance journalist based in London.

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A Second Chance for Dropouts

EU Pilot Projects Teach Self-Esteem and Job Skills

By Barry James

Neither is it cheap. Turning a dropout into a productive member of society costs some 50,000 francs (\$8,591) over three years, but that is a relative bargain compared to the 700,000 francs typically spent to educate a student at one of the country's elite Grandes Ecoles, and a net saving to society when the cost of unemployment is taken into account.

The problem is that the schools only scratch the surface of a major social problem in Europe. Mr. Garzumel has resources and job promises to accept only one out of five applications from a limited age group. But the hope is that the experience of the pilot projects will lead to many more such schools and a flowering of ideas.

BARRY JAMES is on the staff of the International Herald Tribune.



A reading class in Mali. UNESCO notes that 84 million primary-school-age children are not enrolled in school.

Keeping More Children in School

Developing Nations Devise Ways to Trim 'Waste'

By Edward B. Fiske

• Educators say the problem of wastage is really two problems. The first is dropouts who leave school before completing the primary school cycle. Since research shows that many of these students are likely to relapse into illiteracy, the time and money spent on their partial education has in many

Campaigns aimed at dropout prevention typically have broad social objectives and use techniques such as public relations campaigns to encourage parents to enroll their children in school. The World Food Program of the United Nations has successfully raised the levels of school attendance in Pakistan, especially among girls, by providing food for students, teachers and sometimes entire families. Kenya has increased enrollment and reduced dropout rates with public health programs.

Most successful anti-wastage programs are based on the notion that students with competent teachers, good textbooks and other resources will not only learn more but be more motivated to stay in school.

Mr. Berntecher warned that the wastage issue is complicated and success breeds problems of its own. "Governments don't talk much about this publicly, but the fact is that education systems are selective, and no developing country has the resources to educate everyone," he said. "Having dropouts is almost a requirement for the survival of an educational system."

EDWARD B. FISKE is a former education editor of The New York Times. He is also the principal author of the UNESCO report, "Wasted Opportunities: When Schools Fail."

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
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INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION / A SPECIAL REPORT

U.S. Faces Shortage of Teachers

Continued from Page 11

doors have opened to young women.

Meantime, amid low unemployment and dynamic growth in high-tech sectors, business is snapping up young graduates with math or science majors, aggravating teacher shortages in those subjects.

A math, physics and computer science teacher at a top public high school in Virginia received eight job offers in business in the past year, he told The Washington Post, some for more than twice his \$60,000 annual salary.

In addition, attrition rates among younger teachers are extraordinarily high. Teachers often cite working conditions as a bigger concern than money. This is particularly true in big cities, where new teachers are assigned the toughest classes, often with little support or guidance. Nationwide, more than 20 percent of new teachers quit within the first three years. In major urban areas,

the figure approaches 50 percent.

"Imagine the outcry if a quarter of all new teachers left the profession after their first three years," Mr. Riley said last year. He has encouraged school districts to establish mentoring and other programs to help inexperienced teachers.

Shortages are particularly acute in certain subject areas. Two-thirds of U.S. school districts say they need more math teachers. More than 8 school districts in 10 report an immediate need for special-education teachers, according to a survey by Recruiting New Teachers Inc., a nonprofit group.

Pressure on the schools for better results has also exacerbated teacher shortages. In the past, districts sometimes lowered hiring standards when more teachers were needed. But now, parents and employers are demanding that graduates be better prepared. School systems are trying to reduce class sizes; they also want to toughen teacher certification and testing requirements.

Yet, more and more classrooms are being supervised by underqualified teachers, those with no teaching license or else an emergency or temporary permit. Sixty percent of the nearly 3,000 new teachers hired last fall by the Los Angeles Unified School District had emergency licenses.

Faced by extraordinary shortages, school officials are adopting extraordinary strategies. The Massachusetts Department of Education, for example, sent recruiters on a 48-campus tour, offering a \$20,000 bonus for 50 aspiring teachers who agree to teach in the state's neediest urban school districts. Massachusetts also offers a mentoring program that pays veteran teachers up to \$5,000 a year to work closely with younger counterparts.

The 50 new teachers, however, will only make a small dent in the 3,000 openings the state needs to fill each year through about 2004.

In the long run, the only sort of

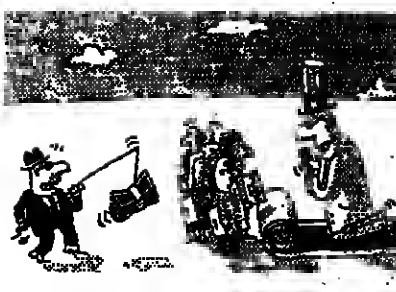


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recruitment that will help entice young people into careers in education is to restore the attractiveness of teaching careers, starting with increases in salaries in some of the lower-paying districts.

Consider the case of Mary Beth Blögen of rural Minnesota, who was named National Teacher of the Year in 1996. With 30 years' experience, she could be said to be at the pinnacle of her profession. Her salary: \$36,000.

BRIAN KNOWLTON is on the staff of the International Herald Tribune.

Poor Marks for U.S. Year 2000 Goals Prove Elusive

By Edward B. Fiske

WASHINGTON — Nine years ago, President George Bush convened the nation's governors at the University of Virginia to draw up a set of national education goals for the year 2000.

The gathering was historic — only the third time that any American president had assembled state leaders to discuss an important issue — and the goals the political leaders agreed upon were high.

By 2000, they proclaimed, 9 out of 10 U.S. students would be graduating from high school, and all students would leave grades 4, 8 and 12 "having demonstrated competency over challenging subject matter" in all core academic areas.

In their most ambitious target of all, the political leaders pledged that, by the same year, American students would be "first in the world in mathematics and science achievement."

As the United States prepares to usher in the new millennium, it is obvious that the president and the governors over-reached. In its latest annual update, the National Education Goals Panel, a bipartisan body set up to monitor progress toward the goal, reported that, while progress has been made in many areas, none of the eight goals is even close to being fulfilled.

"The nation still has a long way to go," conceded Governor Cecil Woodford of West Virginia, the panel's chairman.

The failure of the United States to reach any of the national goals confirms the skepticism of many critics, especially educators, who viewed the education summit meeting and the goal-setting process as little more than a publicity stunt.

For many others, however, the failure of the country to attain these lofty objectives highlights both the difficulties inherent in improving schools and the impact that the national goals, unrealistic though they may have been, have had on the politics of American education.

"The education summit created a political environment that made it possible to make fundamental changes in the way American public schools operate," said Marc Tucker, president of the National Center on Education and the Economy in Washington. "The governors took the goals seriously. They went home and set about drawing up high state-level

standards for student performance and new accountability measures for schools. We have yet to see how these forces will play out, but the effects will be profound."

In its report, the panel said that the country has made the most progress toward reaching Goal 1, which states that "by the year 2000 all children will start school ready to learn." It cited federal data showing that immunization rates for two-year-olds are rising and that the proportion of children born with health risks such as low birth weight has declined.

The panel also noted progress toward Goal 8, which calls for more parental involvement in children's education. It noted that the proportion of parents who report that they read to their preschool children rose from 66 percent to 72 percent between 1993 and 1996, according to data from the U.S. Department of Education.

On the other hand, the panel noted that the proportion of students graduating from high school has held steady at 86 percent — 4 percentage points below the target of 90 percent — and little progress has been made toward the higher student achievement targets that constituted the heart of the goal-setting process.

The most conspicuous failing has to do with the hope that U.S. students would lead the world in math and science by the turn of the century. The panel cited some progress in math achievement as measured by the National Assessment of Educational Progress, a federal project that samples student performance at key grades, and it noted that the proportion of students earning college degrees in math and science has risen since 1990 in 47 states.

The panel acknowledged, however, that the results of the recent Third International Mathematics and Science Study were disappointing. Results showed that, while U.S. students were among the best in the world in science in the fourth grade, the scores of eighth graders and high school seniors were only mediocre. Likewise in math: U.S. fourth graders ranked a respectable seventh among 25 participating countries, but scores slipped sharply in the two more advanced grades.

The panel also reported little progress in goals related toward a more skilled teaching force, greater adult literacy rates and reaching the point where every American school will be "free of drugs, violence, and the unauthorized presence of firearms and alcohol."

Adjuncts Save Money but at What Price?

Continued from Page 11

for getting the short end and for being too young and undemanding to know or care.

An adjunct typically teaches twice as many classes and three times as many students as a full-time, tenure-track professor. Only 59 percent hold office hours, compared to 91 percent of full-timers, according to the American Association of University Professors.

The part-timers "are really hard to contact, they get back to you a day late," said Shiva Davis, a sophomore at Kent State. "As far as the attention you get, it is greatly minimized."

With less time to spend, adjuncts give

fewer assignments and essay exams, and they are less likely to be able to nurture a long-term mentoring relationship with students, write recommendations or serve as an adviser.

Adjuncts rarely get to do the research that would keep them on top of their profession. Part-timers complain, too, that they lack what is the bedrock of the concept of university: intellectual and creative freedom.

And, many part-timers say, they can't afford to truly challenge their students. Unlike tenure-track professors, whose performance is measured against detailed criteria, adjuncts are generally judged solely by students' evaluations. Woe to the professor who gets on the wrong side of the 18-year-olds. "If

student evaluations are bad, if students are complaining, it is easier to just get rid of that faculty member," Ms. Leask said.

So is there an eagerness to please, a tendency to give a student a better grade than in a world where professors' jobs are safe? "When you are judged on nothing except the teaching evaluation and your pathetic little job depends on it, you bet," Professor McVay said.

With their great numbers, it would seem that part-timers should have an easy time demanding change. But they are difficult to mobilize, with contracts renewed, or not, each term and plenty of aspiring candidates eager to fill empty slots. So only one in 10 part-time professors in the United States has union

representation.

There are some signs that the situation for part-timers may improve. As media attention has grown, several organizations, including the American Association of State Colleges and Universities and the Modern Language Association, have issued reports strongly urging schools to treat part-timers better and provide benefits.

Even so, nobody is banking on wholesale change. Reports like those of the American Association of State Colleges and Universities and the Modern Language Association spend as much time telling universities to prepare their graduate students for the life of an adjunct as they do telling them to treat adjuncts better.

But what courses do you offer to groom someone for a situation like that of Brooke Jacobson? Professor Jacobson, 62, has been teaching film history and criticism for a decade at Portland State University and whatever other area schools would hire her. During the last five years or so, she has taught just two courses a term. Last year she made \$2,896 per course. She gets by, but her students suffer. "You never have time off. You never have the possibility of a sabbatical, research, writing, rethinking the course matter," she said.

This October, her two classes already posted in the course bulletin, Professor Jacobson was told there was not enough money to hire her for the winter term, which began last month. So she collects unemployment. Finally, a sabbatical.

LINDA PERLSTEIN writes about education for The Washington Post.

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CAPITAL MARKETS ON MONDAY

With Market More Wary, Some See Opportunity in High-Yield Bonds

By Jonathan Fuerbringer
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — Since October, when the latest phase of the U.S. stock-market rally began, equity investors have set caution aside.

They have a "buy now" mentality, based on the belief that the future will prove them right, and they seem more afraid of missing out on a big rally than of possible risks in the market. Sharp sell-offs just reinforce that behavior; after all, the downturns have regularly been followed by rapid recoveries.

The high-yield bond market, however, has been behaving differently. Investors there have decided to put a healthy dose of caution back into their buying decisions.

In 1997 and early 1998, junk-bond investors were dismissing risk, just as their stock-buying brethren did, as they rushed to buy anything with a higher

yield. They routinely ignored differences in credit quality, a fact that worried the chairman of the Federal Reserve Board.

But after the Russian ruble devaluation and bond default last year, risk popped back onto the junk-bond radar screen, and the market did not bounce right back as the stock market did.

For example, the spread, or difference, between the yield on a 10-year junk bond issued by Arcadia Financial Ltd. and the comparable U.S. Treasury note narrowed to 5.85 percentage points last June.

Considering the difference in credit quality, the spread was not that wide, when compared with, for example, the 3.05-point spread on a 10-year LTV Corp. junk bond over the Treasury issue. LTV, a steel manufacturer, is rated BB by Standard & Poor's, two notches higher than the B rating on Arcadia, an automobile loan-servicing company.

But since the autumn sell-off, the pricing of Arcadia and LTV bonds has returned to more normal levels; a risk differential has been restored.

At the low for the high-yield market in October, Arcadia was trading at a spread of 14.58 percentage points over Treasury issues, while the LTV spread was at 5.47 points. Now, the Arcadia spread is at 10.97 points, still more than two and a half times the 4.02 points for LTV, according to data from KDP Investment Advisors in Montpelier, Vermont.

Kingman Penningman, the president of KDP, says investor caution means that there are still opportunities in high-yield bonds, despite the rally so far this year. Mr. Penningman's high-yield index is now 4.51 percentage points above the rate on the 10-year U.S. Treasury note, down from 6.25 points in October but still above the 3.54 points that has been the average since 1992.

Two concerns have been holding back

the high-yield bond market: investor worries about the strength of the U.S. economy and the fear of another global financial scare that would send investors running for cover in the U.S. Treasury market while every other bond market is sold off.

Mr. Penningman says that with U.S. economic growth looking stronger for this year, the bigger restraint on the market is the fear of more global shocks.

But since he expects this fear to wane, he adds that "it's a great time to be in high-yield."

Jeffrey Koch, portfolio manager of the Strong High Yield Fund, also sees opportunities in what he calls the middle

tier of the high-yield market.

These are bonds — such as those of Grove Worldwide, a crane manufacturer, and B. F. Saul REIT, a real-estate investment trust that has an 80 percent stake in Chevy Chase Savings Bank — that were of decent credit quality but were sold off sharply last autumn and have not rebounded fully.

Mr. Koch said the return of a premium for risk was making high-yield issues attractive again.

He is not sure, however, that everything is lined up for a great year.

"Something like Brazil is going to happen," he said. "Or the economy will slow. Or new issuance will be so big that spreads will have to widen out. I think

we will get a lot of periods of volatility."

But there is a way to deal with this volatility, he said. An investor can pick a promising company and stick with the bond; if the investor doesn't sell, the price fluctuations will not make a big difference over the long term.

As Mr. Koch put it, "Stay invested and get the coupon."

The remaining question is whether the pause last week in the U.S. stock market — with a 3.4 percent sell-off in the Nasdaq composite, this year's best-performing stock index — is a sign that equity investors may be beginning to see the risks that high-yield investors have taken for granted since last autumn.

Most Active International Bonds

The 250 most active international bonds traded through the Euroclear system for the week ending Feb. 12. Prices supplied by Telekurs.

Australian Dollar

215 Queensland Tr 6 07/19/99 104.1117 5.7600
241 EBRD 0 07/19/99 118.7500 5.5400

British Pound

69 Amington 4 Fm 4.33 01/22/22 93.4920 6.7800
111 Amington 4 0 12/27/22 94.4220 5.7100
114 Biffin 7 0 04/27/22 102.5500 4.5100
124 Future Rentals 2 0 03/20/21 89.9770 5.1200
151 Fomile Mae 6 0 04/27/22 105.7500 5.5500
160 Biffin 7 0 11/04/22 104.2000 4.6900
221 Biffin 6 0 05/27/22 109.2100 5.5500
225 Fin Resid Hous 11.1269/20/20 161.1828 6.9000
250 Thorne Fin 0 07/10/03 58.8132 12.7200

Danish Krone

21 Denmark 6 11/15/09 115.7400 5.1900
23 Denmark 8 05/15/03 115.8300 6.8700
27 Denmark 8 02/04/04 124.3000 4.4400
32 Denmark 6 11/15/02 107.9100 5.5600
62 Denmark 6 11/15/00 109.1400 8.2300
64 Denmark 6 09/04/02 105.5000 4.9900
72 Nykredit 6 10/01/22 98.1000 6.1200
76 Nykredit 6 10/01/22 97.9500 6.1300
102 Denmark 6 11/15/01 107.4071 7.4500
107 Denmark 6 12/01/99 101.9000 5.8900
110 Denmark 6 12/01/99 101.9000 5.8900
115 Denmark 6 11/04/24 129.3400 5.4100
117 Denmark 6 08/02/99 98.9800 3.5600
191 Denmark 6 08/02/99 97.5800 3.5900
214 Denmark 6 08/02/99 97.5800 3.5900
223 Denmark 6 05/03/99 97.1900 3.4000
249 Totalcredit 6 10/01/29 96.4000 6.1800

Deutsche Mark

211 Credit Foncier 7 02/24/03 112.1000 6.4700
227 World Bank 7 04/12/05 118.9000 6.8200

Euro

1 Germany 3 01/04/09 99.3800 3.7700
3 Germany 5 01/04/09 115.4000 4.9900
4 Germany 5 01/04/09 102.2000 4.0300
6 Germany 4 07/04/03 102.5000 4.7000
7 Germany 3 12/15/00 100.8200 3.0000
8 Germany 6 01/21/02 113.3800 7.9600
9 Germany 6 07/04/02 122.4000 5.1900
10 Germany 4 07/04/02 107.2200 4.4300
11 Germany 7 12/23/02 113.3700 6.2900
12 Germany 6 07/12/02 115.7700 5.0100
14 Germany 4 05/19/03 104.9920 4.2900
15 Germany 6 01/05/06 110.5300 5.2600
16 Germany 6 08/26/03 102.8414 3.6700
18 Treasury 7 10/01/02 115.4100 6.7000
19 Germany 7 01/03/05 120.7700 6.1400
20 Germany 8 07/22/02 113.3700 6.3900
22 Germany 6 05/12/02 115.7700 5.0100
23 Treasury 7 01/29/03 111.6200 6.2400
26 Germany 6 10/14/05 116.9183 5.5400
27 Treasury 7 12/23/02 115.4800 6.4400
28 Germany 7 01/17/99 98.1514 4.4300
29 Germany 6 04/26/04 116.2507 5.3800
30 Germany 5 11/12/02 106.1000 4.7100
31 Germany 9 10/20/02 109.6600 8.2100
32 Germany 5 08/22/00 104.0100 5.3300
34 Germany 6 07/15/03 112.8800 5.2400
35 Netherlands 6 07/15/03 111.3725 5.2900
36 Germany 4 08/19/02 104.3100 4.1000
38 Avon Bonaparte 2 01/01/14 102.1490 2.4500
39 Germany 3 07/15/09 99.1000 3.7800
40 Depla 3 01/15/09 97.1275 3.6500
41 Germany 6 01/22/01 111.0400 8.1000
42 Germany 6 04/23/09 101.1900 3.5900
43 Germany 4 11/29/01 104.2000 4.5300
44 Germany 4 05/17/99 100.5601 3.9900
45 Austria 3 08/23/05 98.6343 3.5500
46 Germany 4 04/16/00 101.3000 3.5500
48 Treasury 7 05/09/04 120.6700 6.2500
49 Sweden 3 04/29/06 98.6343 3.5500
50 Germany 4 04/16/00 101.3000 3.5500
51 Germany 4 02/18/03 104.9900 4.3000
52 Germany 4 02/22/02 103.9000 4.3000

Risk Name Cpa Maturity Price Cr/Yd

54 Treasury 6 07/09/03 112.3000 5.5300
54 Germany 3 02/01/01 112.3714 5.5700
54 CADES 3 07/12/04 99.5729 3.2900
57 Treasury 6 04/23/03 112.4113 5.7600
58 Germany 8 12/20/00 110.2800 4.9900
59 Germany 5 08/20/01 104.7000 4.7800
60 Treasury 6 03/04/04 113.4327 5.5200
61 Germany 6 12/15/99 101.4000 4.7100
63 Germany 8 05/21/01 111.5300 7.5100
64 Germany 8 08/20/01 113.5088 7.1700
65 Treasury 6 04/14/03 114.1400 5.9400
67 Germany 3 09/15/00 100.3232 3.2400
70 Germany 5 05/21/01 104.3600 4.7900
72 Treasury 6 02/22/02 102.2500 4.9900
74 GMAC 4 02/09/04 99.0000 4.4000
77 Treasury 6 04/15/04 115.7275 5.8300
78 Netherlands 5 01/15/02 112.2000 4.9000
81 Germany 6 07/15/04 114.2571 5.8100
82 Germany 6 06/20/01 126.0051 5.0000
83 Germany 5 11/21/00 105.6000 4.9300
85 Germany 5 05/15/00 103.4700 5.6900
86 Germany 8 02/29/01 105.5400 7.9900
87 Germany 6 04/22/02 110.5800 5.9400
88 Germany 6 03/15/00 103.7100 4.7200
89 Germany 4 05/17/02 104.1000 4.2800
90 Treasury 4 03/17/00 101.6700 3.9600
91 Hypokf Essen 3 09/01/99 99.7200 3.0000
92 Spain 6 01/21/00 115.0800 5.2100
93 Germany 7 01/15/04 120.4000 6.2200
94 Germany 7 01/15/04 120.4000 6.2200
95 Germany 8 07/29/00 107.7200 6.1100
99 Germany 6 02/14/00 114.2671 5.2500
103 Treasury 1 11/15/01 111.4758 5.8300
105 Belgium 3 03/28/99 98.0000 3.8300
112 Germany 0 06/20/01 112.6229 7.2000
115 Spain 6 01/15/00 107.5000 4.7100
119 Belgium 7 12/22/00 108.3700 7.1500
120 KfW 5 01/04/09 107.9500 4.6300
121 Abbey Natl FRN 3 09/01/99 99.6300 3.1000
122 Belgium 6 01/21/02 104.1900 5.2600
123 Sweden 3 02/28/02 102.8300 4.8300
125 Finland 4 04/21/00 79.1850 5.8200
126 Belgium 7 04/29/04 117.7200 6.1400
127 Hypokf Essen 7 11/25/99 99.0427 4.8400
128 France BTAN 3 07/12/04 100.7200 3.4700
129 Spain 6 01/21/29 104.1200 5.2600
130 France B.T.F. 3 02/03/05 106.8700 4.8800
135 Austria 5 01/15/06 104.3500 5.3900
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172 Spain 4 07/20/04 104.7600 4.3300
173 Greece FRN 4.304 01/22/02 104.8000 4.3200
174 Hypokf Essen 4 09/15/00 104.6000 4.5400
175 Austria 5 10/07/99 108.4700 3.9800
180 Austria 5 03/29/99 100.2500 3.7400
181 ING Bank 4 01/29/99 99.7500 4.2600
182 Treasury 6 07/01/99 101.2300 4.3000
190 Spain 4 02/24/02 101.4000 4.1800
191 Austria 6 07/15/27 101.4000 4.1800
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206 Austria 4.30 07/15/03 103.8500 4.1400
207 Italy 1 01/01/22 124.8000 5.2100
210 Delphes 2 7 05/05/09 100.8750 7.6800
212 World Bank 5 09/01/99 101.8948 5.4000
213 Austria 5 10/05/09 100.8750 7.6800
214 Italy 6 07/22/02 110.8750 6.2000
217 Venezuela FRN 5.849 12/01/02 99.2200 5.8200
218 Ecuador FRN 6 02/28/02 97.8500 1.4400
226 Mexico 3 02/04/01 103.5000 9.2800
229 Bank America 2 04/29/99 99.9500 3.0200
232 Ecuador FRN 5.093 01/29/04 99.9000 5.1000
234 New Zealand 5 01/29/04 99.9000 5.1000
235 Bulgaria FRN 5 07/28/11 78.0701 8.5900
236 Austria 2 02/28/02 99.9000 5.1000
240 CADES FRN 5.856 12/10/01 99.6900 5.8700
243 KFW FRN 5 01/22/02 99.6900 5.8700
244 HSBC 2 01/22/02 99.6900 5.8700
246 KFW FRN 5 11/25/03 97.7565 5.1200

Risk Name Cpa Maturity Price Cr/Yd

199 Cybertel FRN 3.315 07/01/99 100.0000 3.3100

Italian Lira

187 BTM Hldg 0 10/05/00 94.9807 3.0900

Japanese Yen

104 Nishitani 1 03/01/04 99.4220 1.7400
144 Spain 5 03/23/02 115.0000 5.0500
205 World Bank 4 04/29/00 105.3750 4.3700

South African Rand

222 World Bank 0 12/31/25 1.0000 13.9200

Swedish Krona

150 Sweden 13 04/15/01 121.2150 10.7200
179 Sweden 5 01/15/04 104.8200 4.7000
220 Sweden 5 04/12/02 106.1110 5.1800
238 Sweden 5 01/28/09 104.7270 4.8800

U.S. Dollar

12 Brazil 5 04/15/04 68.9345 7.2500
17 Brazil L FRN 6 04/15/04 61.7122 9.9300
25 Argentina FRN 6 03/29/05 70.7945 8.7400
47 Mexico FRN 7 04/15/04 104.5000 11.0800
66 Brazil FRN 6 01/01/01 42.2891 14.3400
71 Mexico A 6 12/31/19 79.4935 7.8400
73 Brazil FRN 6 01/15/02 84.9000 11.4400
79 IADG 5 02/05/04 99.9719 5.1700
80 Household FRN 5 02/01/09 98.2500 5.9800
84 Mexico 9 01/15/07 97.5500 10.1300
92 Brazil 5 01/15/27 84.9000 11.4400
96 Mexico Transil 7 02/04/09 99.5158 7.5100
100 Venezuela FRN 5 01/15/07 61.1300 9.7100
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140 Brazil FRN 6 04/15/09 95.1694 11.2200
141 Mexico FRN 6 12/31/19 79.4935 7.8400
142 J.L.S. FRN 6 04/15/14 54.5000 9.7300
143 Brazil 5 04/15/04 54.5000 9.7300
147 Ecuador FRN 4 04/15/06 65.6127 9.7800
152 Mexico A FRN 6 11/28/19 88.7500 7.5700
153 Mexico B FRN 6 11/28/19 88.7500 7.5700
154 Ecuador FRN 4 03/28/15 33.0403 9.8400
162 World Bank 5 01/15/09 94.9148 5.5300
164 Bank America 5 01/15/09 94.9148 5.5300
167 Italy FRN 6 05/12/02 99.8000 4.8900
171 Korea 8 04/15/08 107.5092 8.2400
172 Venezuela A 6 03/12/02 67.0000 10.0700
174 Ford Motor FRN 6 02/01/09 98.1777 6.4400
178 ADS 6 02/01/09 98.1777 6.4400
181 Ford Motor FRN 5 11/28/02 99.1800 5.2000
182 Mexico 8 03/12/08 98.5000 9.3300
184 Russia 11 07/24/18 23.5750 46.8700
186 World Bank 5 03/17/03 101.3750 5.5900
188 Mexico Lnd Int 7 08/01/02 98.1777 6.4400
189 Argentina 5 12/28/03 98.5000 9.3300
192 Spain 5 07/28/08 102.2500 5.7500
196 Mobil Oil Cde 5 12/15/04 98.1250 5.1000
197 Venezuela 1 01/15/02 84.9000 11.4400
200 Russia 12 04/24/28 29.0000 43.7700
210 Delphes 2 7 05/05/09 100.8750 7.6800
212 World Bank 5 09/01/99 101.8948 5.4000
213 Austria 5 10/05/09 100.8750 7.6800
214 Italy 6 07/22/02 110.8750 6.2000
217 Venezuela FRN 5.849 12/01/02 99.2200 5.8200
218 Ecuador FRN 6 02/28/02 97.8500 1.4400
226 Mexico 3 02/04/01 103.5000 9.2800
229 Bank America 2 04/29/99 99.9500 3.0200
232 Ecuador FRN 5.093 01/29/04 99.9000 5.1000
234 New Zealand 5 01/29/04 99.9000 5.1000
235 Bulgaria FRN 5 07/28/11 78.0701 8.5900
236 Austria 2 02/28/02 99.9000 5.1000
240 CADES FRN 5.856 12/10/01 99.6900 5.8700
243 KFW FRN 5 01/22/02 99.6900 5.8700
244 HSBC 2 01/22/02 99.6900 5.8700
246 KFW FRN 5 11/25/03 97.7565 5.1200

French Franc

193 Cybertel FRN 3.335 07/01/99 100.0000 3.3300

Weak U.S. Issues Attract Investors' Eye

Bloomberg News

NEW YORK — After suffering their worst two-week battering in more than three and a half years, U.S. long-term Treasury bonds now look attractive, especially in the current low-inflation environment, some investors say.

Yields on U.S. 30-year issues have risen 40 basis points, or hundredths of a percentage point, in February to almost 5.50 percent — a level not seen since Russia defaulted on its debt last August, sending investors rushing into the safety of U.S. Treasury bonds.

"The market's looking pretty attractive," said Dave Caputo, portfolio manager at Franklin Resources Inc. in San Mateo, California.

With inflation dominant, bonds are particularly enticing after a sharp rise in yields, investors say. If yields should fall, investors could reap fat returns. A half-point drop in the yield on the 30-year benchmark bond to 4.92 percent by the end of 1999 would translate into a 14 percent gain for investors who bought the bonds Friday, according to Bloomberg Financial Markets. After factoring in the current rate of inflation, the return would be 12.4 percent.

Even if prices do not change, bonds would return 5.42 percent, or 3.82 percent after inflation.

The last time inflation was at 2 percent or lower for any extended period — from 1951 to 1966 — real yields on a basket of Treasury bonds due in more than one year averaged 3.32 percent, according to data from Ryan Labs Inc. in New York. That's about 50 basis points lower than current yields.

"The real-rate argument is going to

attract dollars into Treasuries," said John Swaim of TradeStreet Investment Associates in Charlotte, North Carolina.

Bond bulls are still in the minority at the moment. Prices fell last week amid rising Japanese yields and a disappointing sale of \$35 billion in U.S. Treasury issues. The 30-year bond ended the week with a decline of 1/32 of a point, or 0.03125 percent, to 5.42 percent.

Investors who bought 30-year bonds at the start of the year are now sitting on a loss of 4.1 percent, after gains of 18.6 percent in 1998.

The steep declines in prices Friday were sparked by the Bank of Japan, which said it would not increase the amount of Japanese bonds it bought. Investors took the move as

Unrepentant Malaysia Insists Its Capital Controls Have Done Their Job

By Mark Landler

New York Times Service

KUALA LUMPUR — From the plush conference room with teakwood panels, the Malaysian central bank was determined to make the right impression on the foreign fund managers it had invited to a recent briefing.

Malaysia wanted them to bring their capital back to the country, the bank officials told the group. They said they would understand if the investors were still angry at Malaysia for imposing strict controls on foreign investment last September. But the rules had since been relaxed, they said. Malaysia was ready for business.

The one word the Malaysian bankers did not utter was "Sorry."

Five months after Malaysia incurred global opprobrium by closing off its currency and capital markets, its officials are in no mood to apologize.

Far from wrecking the Malaysian economy, they say, the isolationist strategy has stabilized the country and put it on the road to recovery.

By suspending trading of the Malay-

sian ringgit and fixing its exchange rate to the U.S. dollar, they say, the government was able to lower interest rates and ward off speculators.

Since September, Malaysia's exports and foreign reserves have increased, consumer confidence has flickered back to life, and the country has escaped the violent social unrest of its neighbor, Indonesia.

"The economy is responding to what we have done," said Finance Minister Daim Zaidin. "People are comfortable. They say things are predictable. To us, that's a positive."

Mr. Daim has little patience for foreigners who tell him that Malaysia has committed economic heresy. "They're entitled to their opinion," he shrugged. "Either they invest here or they don't. If they prove us wrong, we look stupid."

Malaysia's experiment has not had major imitators. Brazil, which fell into its currency crisis after Malaysia had begun reaping benefits from the policy, has kept its markets open.

And not all of Malaysia's economic indicators point to recovery.

According to government statistics, foreign investors are pouring an average

of \$1 billion a month into South Korea and \$500 million a month into Thailand. Malaysia has not issued recent numbers, but economists say it is getting only a fraction of that.

Still, government officials, academics and business leaders in Kuala Lumpur relish the fact that Malaysia has avoided the prophecies of doom made by the International Monetary Fund, the U.S. Treasury Department and other critics of capital controls.

"We were seen as having done something very naughty," said Francis Yeh, a Malaysian-Chinese industrialist and one of the nation's richest men. He predicted that "pragmatism and greed" would eventually overcome foreign fury at Malaysia for its actions.

"At the moment, the fiery flows in both directions. Malaysia's irascible 73-year-old prime minister and unchallenged leader, Mahatir bin Mohamad, blames the West in general, and George Soros in particular, for precipitating the Asian crisis. He once said a cabal of mainly Jewish currency traders had destroyed Asian currencies by speculating against their currencies and forcing them to deplete their reserves.

To many Malaysians, it seems unjust that Mr. Mahatir reaps criticism.

"Mahatir and Soros both support regulating hedge funds," Mr. Yeh said, adding that in the eyes of the world, "One is a heretic and one is a guru."

But the world has also been troubled by Mr. Mahatir's crackdown on political opponents. On Sept. 2, the day after he imposed capital controls, Mr. Mahatir ousted his deputy, Anwar Ibrahim, who had opposed the policies. When the prime minister threw Mr. Anwar in jail on lurid corruption and sexual-related charges, it ignited the largest street protests in Malaysia in decades.

"Foreign investors don't give much importance to human rights," said Chandra Muzaffar, a professor of political science at the University of Malaya. "But they should be concerned about the Anwar episode, because it has implications for Malaysia's short-term and long-term stability."

When Malaysia imposed its controls, the government declared that foreign capital could not be withdrawn from the country for 12 months. The goal was to punish speculators and other short-term investors. But people who had invested

for the long term felt that they were being held hostage, too.

"What right do they have to confiscate people's capital?" asked Bill Kaye, a fund manager at the Pacific Group in Hong Kong. "If you're an attractive place to invest, why do you need to do that?"

Two weeks ago, Malaysia lifted the ban on repatriating capital and replaced it with an exit tax that encourages investors to leave their funds in the country for more than a year. The change mollified a few investors, but not Mr. Kaye. "Most people just want to get their money out," he said.

The government contends the new stability has cheered consumers.

Monthly car sales rose from 12,000 to 19,000 between September and November. Unlike Indonesia, Malaysia does not feel like a country in the grip of recession. Bars and restaurants in the capital are crowded, and the streets are choked with lines of orderly traffic.

Merger Talks Are Canceled

United Merchant Finance Bhd. of Malaysia announced it was canceling merger negotiations with three finance

companies, raising fresh doubts over a financial-sector consolidation exercise initiated by the central bank, Reuters reported Sunday.

United Merchant Group Bhd. said its United Merchant Finance subsidiary had terminated talks to acquire the equity of Delta Finance Bhd., Interfinance Bhd. and BMB Kewangan Bhd.

But a fourth company, Perdana Finance Bhd., was still negotiating a merger with United Merchant Finance, it said.

The mergers were part of an exercise forced on finance companies by the central bank last year to help the sector consolidate through reducing the number of companies in it.

Analysts said the latest cancellation had proven that the mergers announced by the central bank with much fanfare on March 31, 1998, were unlikely to succeed.

"Even then, there was a question mark over whether the mergers would ever take place," said the head of research at a Malaysian brokerage. "Now the situation has worsened further, so even the anchor companies are trying to slip out of their obligations."

Privacy and the Internet: A Trans-Atlantic Fault Line

Q & A / David Aaron

A trans-Atlantic dispute about protecting the privacy of personal data threatens to disrupt businesses as different as multinational corporate accounting and on-line book-buying, executive head-hunting and pharmaceutical commerce for international trade, David Aaron, visiting European correspondent of the International Herald Tribune, discussed the issue with Joseph Fichten of the International Herald Tribune.

Q. Washington and the European Commission had agreed to work together to find a way for companies to comply with the new European directive restricting the way companies can use information they have collected about their customers. Why are you making this special swing through Europe?

A. Indeed, we've agreed to try to conclude this at the next summit meeting between the United States and the European Union; that's in June, so we need an accord by late April to allow it to go through the European machinery. This is less a normal adversarial trade dispute and more like research on a common problem, because we're both grappling with new technologies and new business practices. We're trying to make sure that European governments are on board, too, because otherwise an understanding

with the European Commission is not going to be much of a solution.

For the moment, most governments have not yet passed implementing laws, but some already have their own regulatory authorities. We're also trying to reach out to the business community to ensure that they understand the enormous potential impact of a deadlock. A break would prevent European businesses from communicating information needed to run their U.S. businesses. Basic functions — accounting, even personnel activities — could become illegal.

Q. Is this a real threat or just a bureaucratic dispute?

A. If we don't reach agreement, the civil courts could be clogged with litigation over damage claims for unauthorized disclosure or issues such as restraint of trade. Expansion of one of the most dynamic parts of both our economies would be threatened. There would be an incalculable price in things that would never occur — Internet trade innovations that would never come about, fortunes never made in both the United States and Europe, well-paid

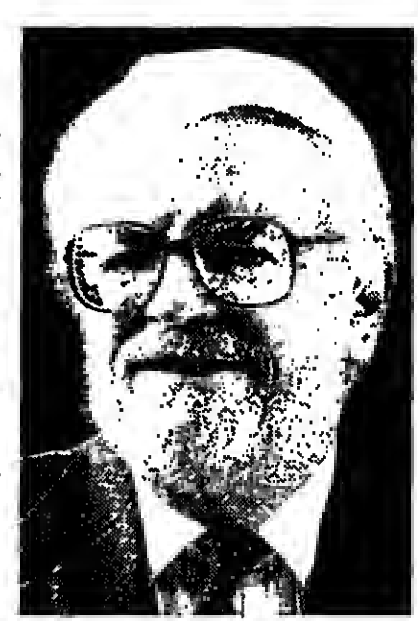
less the user specifically opts in. It's consistent with our approach: People should have a choice about whether information is collected about them or not. So if "cookies" on your screen offer benefits, you can only get them by providing data about yourself.

Q. In Europe, people are entitled to find out what companies are doing with information obtained in these ways. What is the U.S. view about individuals' access to information companies have on them?

A. We believe that if it is significant, sensitive information, the company should provide it too matter what. But if information is trivial and very difficult to get at, the company should not have to go to great, expensive lengths to supply it. In some cases, it might even be impossible to locate. Some databases contain personal information that cannot be extracted by name. A list of people who seem interested in cruises might include names but not be searchable by name, and a company shouldn't have to spend tens of millions of dollars to provide information it didn't want in the first place.

Q. Don't you have divergences on enforcement?

A. We favor self-regulation, with legal teeth. If a U.S. company says it is



Mr. Aaron sees risks to businesses if the question is not resolved.

protecting data and doesn't, it can be prosecuted for deceptive business practices. Europeans agree with this approach, but they long for government bodies to supervise the system. The United States is not going to build a European-style centralized, overriding data-protection czar.

BMW Insists It Has No Plan For a Partner

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

FRANKFURT — The new chief executive of Bayerische Motoren Werke AG said Sunday the company was not considering any tie-up with another company despite media reports that a number of auto companies might be considering takeover bids.

Joachim Milberg, who replaced the ousted CEO, Bernd Pischetsrieder, last week, said there was no truth to reports that BMW's position may change.

"BMW is independent and will stay independent," a spokesman quoted Mr. Milberg as saying.

On Saturday, Munich-based BMW's major shareholders affirmed their support of the company after a German newspaper said General Motors Corp. was lining up to make a takeover offer.

The newspaper Die Welt said GM, the world's largest automaker, was likely to make a proposal in the next few days.

"The Quandt family's declaration of support for BMW is steadfast," said a spokesman for the family, which is thought to hold a 45 percent stake in Europe's biggest carmaker. "There are no indications that this will change."

A General Motors spokesman, Dan Jankowski, said, "We wouldn't have any comment on the rumor of the takeover."

The German magazine Der Spiegel, meanwhile, said Volkswagen AG was planning a link with BMW under which the Volkswagen subsidiary Audi AG and BMW would take a mutual 24.9 percent stake in each other, a move that would include taking over BMW's unprofitable Rover unit in Britain.

Rumors about BMW's future have been swirling since Mr. Pischetsrieder resigned Feb. 5 amid criticism of his handling of Rover. BMW has invested more than 5.75 billion Deutsche marks (\$3.32 billion) in Rover since buying it in 1994. Analysts expect Rover to post a pretax loss of about 1 billion DM for 1998.

Benefits Agreement at Renault

Renault SA reached agreement on benefit payments for 1,200 Argentine autoworkers it plans to lay off, paving the way for the partial reopening of its plant in Cordoba on Monday, Bloomberg reported from Buenos Aires.

Renault agreed to pay the workers, which are slightly less than half of its work force, 75 percent of their net salary while they are laid off between now and March 31. Laid-off workers will receive 60 percent of their salaries in April and 50 percent in May. The carmaker announced layoffs last week after stagnant demand in Brazil forced it to slash output by more than one-fourth.

'Inflation' in China: Local Growth Rates

Agence France-Press

BEIJING — Most of China's provinces exaggerated their 1998 economic growth, announcing rates equal to or higher than the national figure, the official press said Sunday.

China registered 7.8 percent growth in gross domestic product last year, the weakest since 1991, despite intense efforts to achieve the 8 percent target, which was set at the start of 1998.

"At the end of the year, observers were intrigued by the fact that while the State Statistics Bureau reported 7.8 percent national growth, only one of the Chinese mainland's 31 principal administrative regions said it grew at a rate lower than 8 percent," said the official China Daily's economics supplement.

The bureau's chief statistician, Lin Xianyu, admitted that "exaggerations about economic performance did exist in some regions," but insisted the 7.8 percent nationwide growth rate was "accurate."

He said that although the bureau had to depend on local figures to some degree, it could also test their accuracy by using different approaches in working out national GDP.

EURO: Mixed Response to New Currency

Continued from Page 1

far," he added.

Before its inauguration, most analysts were predicting a steady rise in the euro. Europe's economy would look more attractive as U.S. growth slowed, they reckoned, while everyone from central banks to Japanese trust funds were expected to shift hundreds of billions of dollars worth of investments from the U.S. currency to the euro.

But the real world has turned out quite differently. Despite the collapse of the Brazilian real and the "warnings of an imminent collapse on Wall Street, the U.S. economy has continued to power ahead.

Growth last year ran at a rate of 3.9 percent, bolstered by a 5.6 percent increase in the last quarter, and most analysts have raised their estimates now for economic growth this year to 2.5 percent or more.

As a result, speculation that the Federal Reserve Board might cut interest rates further, which diminishes the dollar's attractiveness, has been replaced by talk of a possible tightening of monetary policy.

In Europe, by contrast, most recent economic indicators have pointed to softer economic growth, and forecasts for growth in the core economies of Germany and France have been scaled back to less than 2 percent, a level that should cause unemployment to climb again.

While the euro's level has disappointed, the weakness has not curbed the use of the single currency as a borrowing tool. Xavier Werner, head of bond syndication at ABN-AMRO in Amsterdam, estimated that 50 percent or more of the new bonds were being bought by European institutions.

In the past, most institutions had to keep 80 percent of their money in their home currency, and much of that was placed in government bonds.

But the euro has extended the same currency to 11 countries, allowing investors to diversify their portfolios by buying euro-denominated bonds from a range of government and corporate borrowers.

"We have a huge market now with institutional investors very easily buying new names," Mr. Werner said. "We're very rapidly moving to a market which looks like the U.S. corporate market."

The Dutch bank was the lead underwriter of the biggest euro issue to date, a 5 billion euro offering of bonds from the Belgian government last month.

The rapid development of a vibrant European capital market will be a key factor for the euro, encouraging central banks to shift reserves to the currency and international investors to build their holdings, said Roger Gray, managing director for asset allocation and currency at UBS Brinson, one of the world's largest fund managers.

"Certainly we haven't seen evidence of a mass move into euro by big institutional investors," said Mr. Gray, who regarded the euro's current level as fair value.

"But here is still a basis for a move over the long term."

SHORT COVER

Samsung Motor Sets Accord With Workers

SEOUL — A protracted strike at Samsung Motor Inc. ended Sunday after the management and workers reached an accord, the company and the Labor Ministry said.

The agreement was seen here as removing the last major obstacle to negotiations taking place between the Samsung and Daewoo groups of companies under which Daewoo Motor Co. will take over Samsung Motor in a major business swap.

The management and the labor union struck an accord on the job-security issue and other pending issues, the ministry said. It has arbitrated between management and the labor union. (AFP)

Toyota to Construct Plant in Europe

LONDON — Toyota Motor Corp., the world's third-largest carmaker, is considering building its first assembly plant in Central Europe in an effort to increase its European market share, company executives said.

"We are examining that as a possibility but don't have any specific

plans," Toshio Mizushima, the chief executive of European manufacturing, said at a news conference in London on Friday.

Europe is Toyota's third-biggest market after Asia and North America. The company hopes to increase its European market share to 5 percent by 2005 from 3 percent currently. It has an assembly plant in Burnaston, England, and will open its second, in France, in two years. At present, it has relatively little business in Central Europe. (Bloomberg)

Call to Promote Trade From Asia and EU

SINGAPORE — East Asian and European Union officials encouraged each other to resist pressure for protectionism and push for reductions in trade barriers in a meeting over the weekend.

The three-day gathering of senior officials from the 26-member Asia-Europe Meeting that ended Saturday "noted the danger of rising protectionism," said Finian Tan, co-chairman and an official of Singapore's Ministry of Trade and Industry. Although the agreement is nonbinding, Mr. Tan said, "That doesn't mean it carries no weight. There is a lot of peer pressure in such organizations. Member countries feel very obliged to do what they agree on." (AP)

ECB: Concern About Confidence in Euro

Continued from Page 1

euro's existential hitch: the conflict between the interventionist and statist reflexes of its leading leftist governments and the stability pact's restrictions on deficits, debt and inflation.

Oskar Lafontaine, the German finance minister, referring to lower estimates of growth and decreasing exports now affecting Europe, said in a paper addressed to his European colleagues Friday that "if the monetary authorities cannot find a response to the negative shock to demand, other options will have to be considered."

He pointed to budgetary measures but did not give concrete details.

Dominique Strauss-Kahn, the French finance minister, talking in connection with a meeting with Mr. Lafontaine, warned of damage to the European economy if the central bank did not give way. He said, "It would be especially naive to think that monetary union could function if the ECB could conduct monetary policy long-term against the wishes of the governments and its citizens. What it would gain in credibility it would lose in legitimacy, and our economic system would definitely end up weakened."

The bank considers that interest rates are not at the heart of the euro zone's problem. Rather, it says, much of the accelerating problem of diminished growth is a structural one, relating to rigidities, bureaucracy, taxation and a lack of encouragement for initiative.

Lowering rates in Europe, it reasons, would hardly assist the economies of Asia or Brazil or recreate business lost

through recent external shocks to the Eurozone economy.

To its deep regret, the bank indicates, it cannot find the slightest sign that some governments in continental Europe are ready to deal with the structural reforms necessary for growth. In its evaluation of the euro before it became the currency of 11 countries Jan. 1, the International Monetary Fund warned of this condition, saying, "Policies in place are inadequate, and political opposition to reform is still strong."

For the moment, although it does not issue an official forecast of growth for the euro-zone countries for the year, the ECB works with forecasts running between 1.5 percent and 2.5 percent. But it is clearly unwilling to talk about the possibility of improved confidence, especially in circumstances where the bank sees key governments not giving the impression they will stick to the stability pact. Moving away from it, the bank believes, would be a dramatic blow to EMU.

Mr. Lafontaine, however, was reported in the German press last week to have told an audience in Madrid that he supported a "turnaround in Europe" from the "orthodoxy of the stability pact."

Christa Mueller, his wife, an economist with whom Mr. Lafontaine has written a book on economic policy, told a book-launching gathering with the minister that it was "nonsense" to stick to the pact's 3 percent upper limit for national budget deficits.

Mr. Lafontaine was quoted as saying he wanted to "strike a blow" for a new economic order in the interest of people rather than speculators.

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Consolidated prices for all shares traded during week ended Friday, February 12

Consolidated prices for all shares traded during week ended Friday, February 12

Index	Dr Yld	Wt/Hgt	Law Cnt	Qtr
1	100	100	100	100
2	100	100	100	100
3	100	100	100	100
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5	100	100	100	100
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姓名	性别	年龄	籍贯	职业	住址	备注
王德胜	男	45	山东	农民	山东烟台	
李德胜	男	35	河北	工人	河北保定	
张德胜	男	55	河南	商人	河南郑州	
赵德胜	男	25	江苏	学生	江苏南京	
刘德胜	男	65	浙江	医生	浙江杭州	
陈德胜	男	40	安徽	教师	安徽合肥	
周德胜	男	30	江西	记者	江西九江	
吴德胜	男	50	福建	工程师	福建福州	
孙德胜	男	20	广东	学生	广东广州	
郑德胜	男	60	广西	农民	广西桂林	
冯德胜	男	40	湖南	工人	湖南长沙	
马德胜	男	30	湖北	商人	湖北武汉	
朱德胜	男	50	四川	学生	四川成都	
徐德胜	男	20	云南	教师	云南昆明	
李德胜	男	60	贵州	医生	贵州贵阳	
王德胜	男	40	陕西	记者	陕西西安	
张德胜	男	30	甘肃	工程师	甘肃兰州	
赵德胜	男	50	宁夏	学生	宁夏银川	
刘德胜	男	20	青海	农民	青海西宁	
陈德胜	男	60	新疆	工人	新疆乌鲁木齐	
周德胜	男	40	内蒙古	商人	内蒙古呼和浩特	
吴德胜	男	30	辽宁	学生	辽宁沈阳	
孙德胜	男	50	吉林	教师	吉林长春	
郑德胜	男	20	黑龙江	医生	黑龙江哈尔滨	
冯德胜	男	60	山东	记者	山东济南	
马德胜	男	40	河北	工程师	河北石家庄	
朱德胜	男	30	河南	学生	河南郑州	
徐德胜	男	50	江苏	农民	江苏南京	
李德胜	男	20	浙江	工人	浙江杭州	
王德胜	男	60	安徽	商人	安徽合肥	
张德胜	男	40	江西	学生	江西九江	
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ملفوظات امیر المومنین

U.S. MUTUAL FUNDS

Figures as of close
of trading Friday, February 12

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Country	Capital	Area (sq. mi.)	Population (1980)	Government	Notes
Albania	Tirana	11,099	2,900,000	People's Republic	
Algeria	Algiers	91,964	15,000,000	People's Republic	
Angola	Luanda	48,690	4,000,000	People's Republic	
Argentina	Buenos Aires	2,780,221	24,000,000	Republic	
Armenia	Yerevan	11,482	2,700,000	Soviet Republic	
Austria	Vienna	83,858	8,000,000	Republic	
Azerbaijan	Baku	8,660	4,000,000	Soviet Republic	
Bahamas	Nassau	13,943	150,000	Commonwealth	
Bahrain	Manama	660	150,000	Emirate	
Bangladesh	Dhaka	147,570	90,000,000	People's Republic	
Barbados	Bridgetown	166	200,000	Commonwealth	
Belarus	Minsk	207,600	10,000,000	Soviet Republic	
Belgium	Brussels	30,528	10,000,000	Kingdom	
Belize	Belize City	22,967	200,000	Commonwealth	
Benin	Cotonou	112,622	4,000,000	Republic	
Bhutan	Thimphu	38,394	500,000	Kingdom	
Bolivia	Sucre	483,859	6,000,000	Republic	
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Sarajevo	51,129	2,500,000	Soviet Republic	
Brazil	Brasilia	8,511,965	130,000,000	Republic	
Bulgaria	Sofia	110,910	8,000,000	People's Republic	
Burkina Faso	Ouagadougou	274,000	4,000,000	Republic	
Burundi	Bujumbura	27,834	4,000,000	Republic	
Cambodia	Phnom Penh	181,035	6,000,000	Kingdom	
Cameroon	Yaounde	277,067	10,000,000	Republic	
Canada	Ottawa	9,970,610	24,000,000	Parliamentary Democracy	
Cape Verde	Praia	1,500	200,000	Republic	
Casakhstan	Almaty	1,000,000	10,000,000	Soviet Republic	
Catal	Andorra la Vella	468	50,000	Principality	
Cayman Islands	George Town	197	20,000	British Overseas Territory	
Czech Republic	Prague	78,867	6,000,000	Republic	
Cyprus	Nicosia	3,587	600,000	Republic	
Czechoslovakia	Prague	158,409	15,000,000	People's Republic	
Denmark	Copenhagen	43,094	4,000,000	Kingdom	
Dominican Republic	Santiago	76,192	2,000,000	Republic	
Dominica	Roseau	751	70,000	Commonwealth	
DRC	Kinshasa	910,000	20,000,000	People's Republic	
Ecuador	Quito	283,560	4,000,000	Republic	
Egypt	Cairo	1,001,450	45,000,000	Arab Republic	
El Salvador	San Salvador	21,279	3,000,000	Republic	
Equatorial Guinea	Malabo	28,051	400,000	Republic	
Eritrea	Asmara	120,600	1,000,000	People's Republic	
Estonia	Tallinn	45,248	1,000,000	Soviet Republic	
Ethiopia	Addis Ababa	474,000	30,000,000	People's Republic	
Finland	Helsinki	108,402	4,000,000	Republic	
France	Paris	640,800	55,000,000	Republic	
Gabon	Libreville	267,667	1,000,000	Republic	
Gambia	Banjul	11,300	700,000	Republic	
Germany	Bonn	111,450	50,000,000	FRG	
Ghana	Accra	57,930	10,000,000	Republic	
Greece	Athens	113,512	10,000,000	Republic	
Greenland	Narsarsuaq	2,366,000	20,000	Danish Territory	
Grenada	St. George's	344	100,000	Commonwealth	
Guatemala	Guatemala City	103,345	4,000,000	Republic	
Guinea	Conakry	36,125	4,000,000	Republic	
Guinea-Bissau	Bissau	11,202	500,000	Republic	
Haiti	Port-au-Prince	77,816	6,000,000	Republic	
Honduras	Tegucigalpa	111,351	2,000,000	Republic	
Hungary	Budapest	93,030	10,000,000	People's Republic	
Iceland	Reykjavik	101,900	200,000	Republic	
India	New Delhi	1,931,114	750,000,000	People's Republic	
Indonesia	Jakarta	1,919,625	150,000,000	Republic	
Iran	Tehran	1,648,195	40,000,000	Islamic Republic	
Ireland	Dublin	70,276	3,000,000	Republic	
Israel	Jerusalem	20			

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In addition to possessing a sound track record in the competitive Pay Television market, you will be a leader who has experience of negotiating contracts for channel distribution, sound financial skills and the capacity to operate at the highest level.

You will be offered a competitive remuneration, commensurate with your skills and experience, which will include full relocation expenses.

All applications will be treated in the strictest confidence. Closing date for applications, 19 February 1999. Please forward a detailed C.V. and current remuneration details in the first instance to:

Mr Scott Blackmore - Human Resources Director,
Seven Network Limited, Television Centre,
Mabays Lane, Epping NSW 2121
Australia



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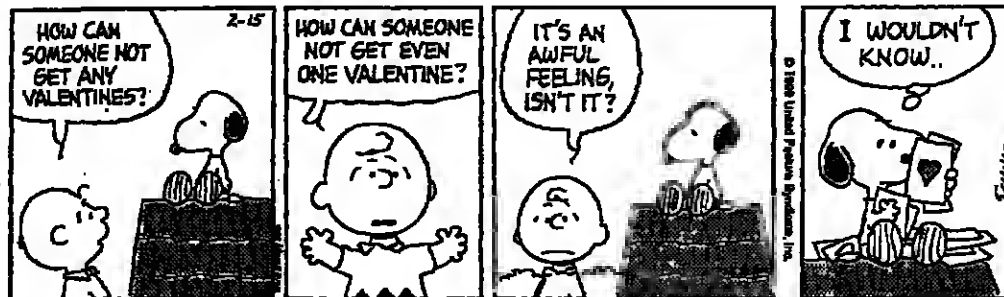
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PEANUTS



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GARFIELD



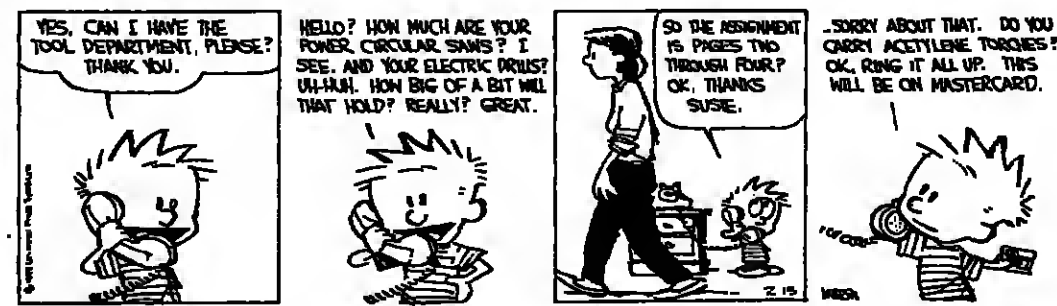
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SPORTS

NHL Bids Adieu To 'Sacred' Rink

Leafs Fly From Garden, Leaving History Behind

By Joe Lapointe
New York Times Service

TORONTO — How do you change a light bulb in the National Hockey League? Easy, hockey philosophers say. Bring the new bulb to Maple Leaf Gardens and leave it at center ice. The bulb will screw itself into the socket because the entire hockey universe revolves around the Gardens.

Although the joke lampoons Toronto's hockey self-importance and the widespread veneration of the league's oldest arena, the end of the punch line was true Saturday night when the NHL's brightest spotlight illuminated the Gardens for its final league game. As was the case on opening night, in 1931, the Maple Leafs played the Chicago Blackhawks.

Between those two games were almost seven decades of lore, much of it glorious, some of it notorious. First came years of elegance and triumph, when the Gardens, like the old Montreal Forum, was likened to a church for Canada's secular religion.

Conn Smythe, a former military man, built the place and ruled it with an authoritarian hand. Back then, his building housed his championship teams and exuded Canada's distinctive patriotism.

Later came decades of decay, not in the building's infrastructure, but throughout its spirit. By then the Gardens was controlled by an eccentric robber baron and the staff included a few employees who brought upon it a scandal that will forever sully its reputation.

Built of 750,000 yellow bricks and 77,500 bags of cement, located appropriately on a street called Church, Maple Leaf Gardens has 15,726 seats that rise steeply from ice level in sight lines ideal for hockey. Typical of arenas of its era, it is built on a human scale, with easy access from bustling downtown sidewalks. Compared with the score of new 1990s arenas, the Gardens is what hockey people call an "old barn."

"The building itself is cement," said Pat Quinn, the coach of the Leafs and a former Toronto player. "But the people who have passed through have made it a glorious place."

Along with hockey stars, Maple Leaf Gardens welcomed members of British royalty, Muhammad Ali, four Beatles, one pope, various politicians — including Winston Churchill — and all sorts of sports.

It was the site of the National Basketball Association's first game: New York Knickerbockers versus Toronto Huskies, Nov. 1, 1946. In the 1950 Stanley Cup finals, the Rangers played two "home" games here because the circus evicted them from Madison Square Garden.

This week, the Maple Leafs will open the Air Canada Center, a sparkling new arena appropriate for a booming city filled with glittering buildings. With its 18,800 seats for hockey, not to mention lots of luxury boxes, it will be in harmony with an expanding league in the 21st century. But the last of the NHL's "old six" arenas from its era of gestation will stand abandoned.

"The vast majority of Canadians have never been inside Maple Leaf Gardens, but they have been in Maple Leaf Gardens in their imagination," Ken Dryden recently told The National Post. "They have been there on radio. They have been there on television. And they imagine what it is like."

Dryden, the former Montreal Canadiens goalie of the 1970s, was critical of Leafs ownership and management in books he wrote during the 1980s. Now, in less than two seasons as president of the Maple Leafs, he has turned one of the league's worst teams into one of its best.

As Dryden indicated, Canadians have experienced the Gardens through "Hockey Night in Canada," a Saturday night television show that made the Maple Leafs the home team for English-speak-



The Toronto team standing on the ice before the last National Hockey League game at Maple Leaf Gardens.

ing fans from Newfoundland to British Columbia. Before television, "Hockey Night" came over the radio through the voice of Foster Hewitt. If only in their mind's eye, fans could see the players of Smythe's team, who wore over their hearts their blue and white sweaters — not jerseys, in Canada — the maple leaf symbol that later became part of the national flag.

One who remembers is Peter Jennings, the news anchor for the ABC television network. He recalled how his father, a journalist for the Canadian Broadcasting Corp., took him to Leafs games and let him climb around in Hewitt's famous "gondola," a broadcast booth Jennings recalled how the Gardens used to host religious revival meetings. They were in tune, Jennings said, with the spirit of what was then a prime and provincial city. Saturday night was hockey night, because blue laws forbade Sunday games. "Toronto the Good," Jennings said, recalling one of the city's old nicknames. "Toronto the right-o, Toronto the interminably boring."

ANOTHER member of the live hockey audience then was Jim Develiano, who bought his first season tickets for the 1958-59 season when he was 15 and the seats cost \$1.50 each. Although he has worked for other teams and is now the senior vice president of the Detroit Red Wings, Develiano still has season tickets at the Gardens, which now cost him \$48.

"They had usherettes in the low seats who wore white gloves," Develiano said. "And the place was spottless. You could eat off the floor." Smythe used to write letters to season ticket-holders reminding the men to wear jackets and neckties. No beer was sold until 1972.

"A hockey game there was an event," Develiano added. They had a band playing. They had a picture of the queen at the end of the building. Very patriotic, very Smythe. You know, British Empire. Before the games, the band would play "God Save the Queen."

Her Majesty even visited the place, in 1951, when she was still Princess Elizabeth. Among the pictures in one of the corridors is one of the princess, sitting next to a smiling Smythe. Beneath it is a hissing radiator that warms the old hallway on chilly afternoons.

The old Madison Square Garden in New York, which housed the Rangers from the time they were founded in 1927, was replaced by a new one in 1968. The other rinks from that era, all closed or demolished — now, were the Forum in Montreal, the Detroit Olympia, Chicago Stadium and Boston Garden. Gone, gone, gone, memories of a time before corporations and banks leased the names, before the sideboards and even the ice surface became cluttered with advertising.

The Leafs won their 11th and most recent Stanley Cup

in 1967. By then, the franchise and the sport were in transition. Smythe had turned the team over to his son and other directors, including Harold Ballard. By 1971, Smythe and his son were dead and Ballard gained full control, despite a stay in prison for financial fraud against the Gardens. After his release, Ballard ruled the building through the next two decades, until his death in 1990.

WHEN European players became more numerous, Ballard insulted them, including Swedish players on his own team. He refused to allow touring Soviet teams to play on his ice and he told his management not to hire Russians.

Another former hockey star, Red Kelly, played for the Leafs and later coached them. Of the Ballard era, he once said, "It was as if a bunch of pirates had taken over." During the Ballard years, critics nicknamed the team "Mako-Believe Gardens." But even the harshest did not realize how shabby things really were.

Those revelations began in 1997, about men who worked in the Gardens and operated a sex ring that preyed on young boys, bribing them with tickets and souvenirs. The incidents are alleged to have occurred over three decades. One accused perpetrator was convicted and is serving jail time; another, an usher who used to guard the dressing-

room door, is on trial. After the first victim spoke out, the police took reports from at least four dozen men who said they were victimized during their youth. The chief accuser committed suicide on Oct. 30, 1997, by jumping off a downtown viaduct. Dryden, new in his job then, called the men's family for permission to attend the funeral.

But it would be unfair to define the building by its worst chapters. Above and beyond all, it was a hockey rink, one cherished even by today's athletes. Tie Domi, a Maple Leafs forward, said, "Going to work there every day is quite the honor. I sit back and say, 'We are part of this shrine and this history and now it's going away.'"

Steve Thomas, a forward, recalled his first day as a Leaf. "I remember sitting in the locker room," he said, "looking down at my jersey and, almost, I don't know, I don't want to be sentimental."

His voice cracked, he quickly smiled, and then he continued. "It was an amazing feeling. Growing up when I was 6 years old, following the Leafs, watching them on TV with my dad."

Wayne Gretzky of the Rangers made his first visit when he was 6, with his grandmother. They sat in the last row and Gretzky said he was entranced. "You don't replace a Maple Leaf Gardens," Gretzky said. "We'll never recapture the atmosphere. It's a special place, sacred."

Chicago Crashes Toronto Gala, 6-2

Hawks Show Little Sentimentality

The Associated Press

The Chicago Blackhawks spoiled an emotional goodbye party, embarrassing the Toronto Maple Leafs in the final National Hockey League game at Maple Leaf Gardens.

The Blackhawks dominated all but a few moments of the second period Saturday night in their 6-2 victory to break a seven-game losing streak and subdue a celebrity-studded crowd. Although the

Blacks stopped 31 shots and Ryan Smyth scored twice to lead Edmonton over St. Louis, which lost its fifth straight at home. St. Louis' longest home losing streak was six games, in 1996-97.

Penguins 3, Predators 2 Kip Miller scored with 1:21 left in overtime and extended Pittsburgh's winning streak to nine straight with a victory over the Predators in Nashville.

The Penguins have won their last four games by one goal, the last three coming in overtime.

NHL Roundup

Gardens will be used for minor-league hockey and other events, the Maple Leafs are moving to the Air Canada Center.

Chicago went ahead, 3-0, on first-period goals by Tony Amonte and Reid Simpson and a second-period score by a former Maple Leaf, Doug Gilmour. Dozens of former Maple Leafs players were on hand for the game, including Red Horner, 89, the only surviving member of the 1931 team that played in the Gardens' opening game.

Goaltender 4, Avalanche 1 Nikolai Khabibulin stopped 25 shots to earn his 17th career victory and Jeremy Roenick had a goal and an assist as Phoenix beat the Avalanche, 4-1, in Denver.

Khabibulin, who is 5-1-1 with two shutouts in his last seven starts, allowed only a first-period goal to Joe Sakic to improve to 117-99-29 and break a tie with Bob Essensa for the most victories in the history of the franchise, which began play as the Winnipeg Jets before moving to Phoenix.

Canucks 3, Bruins 1 In Vancouver, Todd Bertuzzi scored the game winner as the Canucks kept their fading Western Conference playoff hopes alive by beating Boston.

Alexander Mogilny, ending a nine-game scoring drought, and Dave Scatchard, also scored for the Canucks. Anson Carter scored for Boston.

Stars 3, Kings 2 Gary Carrabean scored the go-ahead goal as Dallas extended its unbeaten streak against Los Angeles to 15 games.

Brett Hull and Pat Verbeek also scored to help Dallas extend its road unbeaten streak to seven games.

Canadiens 4, Panthers 0 Saku Koivu scored two power-play goals and Jeff Hackett needed to make just 16 saves for his third shutout of the season as Montreal beat visiting Florida.

Mark Recchi notched his 500th career assist on Koivu's first goal, which gave the Canadiens a 2-0 lead in the second period.

Islanders 2, Sabres 2 Mariusz Czerkawski scored the tying goal and Tommy Salo made 24 saves as the New York Islanders battled the Sabres to a tie in Buffalo.

Czerkawski scored early in the third period and Salo made two big saves on shots by Michael Peca with Buffalo on the power play in the final seconds. The Islanders avoided what would have been a third straight 2-1 loss.

Senators 2, Capitals 1 Damian Rhodes made 31 saves and Radek Bonk scored the winning goal in the first minute of the second period to lead host Ottawa over Washington.

The Senators ended the Capitals' six-game winning streak and captured the season series, 3-1.

Devils 6, Hurricanes 4 Brendan Morrison and Petr Sykora scored in the second period to put New Jersey ahead.

Scott Niedermayer, Krzysztof Oliwa, Jay Fandolfo and Randy McKay also scored, as the host Devils ended a three-game losing streak — all at home.

Sharks 3, Lightning 1 In Tampa Bay, Murray Craven had a goal and an assist as San Jose won its fourth straight game.

Late Rally Lifts Connecticut, 53-48

Lethargic for Most of 2d Half, Huskies Catch Fire to Upend Seton Hall

The Associated Press

Connecticut, ranked No. 2 in U.S. college basketball, used a three-minute rally late in the second half to conquer Seton Hall, 53-48.

Khalid El-Amin's driving basket with 5:36 to play Saturday was just the second field goal of the second half for the visiting Huskies (22-1, 13-1 Big

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

East). It narrowed their deficit to 44-40 and was the first of five straight shots they made, the last a baseline jumper by Richard Hamilton that made it 51-48 with 2:18 left.

Connecticut went two-of-eight from the foul line over the final 32 seconds, but Seton Hall (12-12, 6-9) missed two chances to tie the game with a three-point shot.

Kevin Freeman led Connecticut with 17 points. Rimas Kaukenas had 18 points and 10 rebounds for the Pirates.

No. 1 Duke 102, Wake Forest 71 The host Blue Devils won their 20th straight overall and 35th in a row in Cameron Indoor Stadium.

With the victory, Duke clinched at least a tie for its third straight Atlantic Coast Conference regular-season title. The triumph also clinched the No. 1 seed in next month's ACC tournament in Charlotte, North Carolina.

Texas Longhorn had 20 points as Duke (25-1, 13-0 ACC) placed six players in double figures for the fourth time in the last five games. Robert O'Kelley led the Demon Deacons (13-11, 4-8) with 19 points.

No. 3 Auburn 102, Alabama 61 Doc Robinson scored a career-high 25 points as the host Tigers clinched the Southeastern Conference West title.

It marked the first season sweep of Alabama (12-14, 4-9) by Auburn (24-1, 12-1) since the 1983-84 season.

Alabama turned the ball over 10 times before it made its first basket, a jumper by MC Mazique that made it 18-6 with 13:38 to play. The Tigers led 41-42 at one point and 58-23 at halftime.

No. 5 Michigan State 84, No. 23 Minnesota 62 Mateen Cleaves hit a driving lay-up with 1.2 seconds left as No. 3 Michigan State rallied to win its school-record 11th straight Big Ten game, beating Minnesota.

Cleaves finished with 23 points and helped the visiting Spartans wipe out a 10-point deficit in the final seven minutes.

Southern California 66, No. 6 Stanford 62 Brian Scalabrine scored 22 points, including a key 3-pointer in overtime, to boost visiting USC past Stanford.

No. 7 Maryland 51, No. 12 North Carolina 44 Steve Francis scored 22 points as host Maryland completed a rare season sweep of North Carolina by forcing 25 turnovers in a rout of the Tar Heels.

No. 8 Kentucky 74, South Carolina 40 Scott Padgett scored 13 points to lead five Kentucky players in double figures as the eighth-ranked Wildcats used a 22-3 second-half run to beat visiting South Carolina.

California 65, No. 9 UCLA 67 Sean Lampley and Michael Gill had 18 points each as California upset visiting UCLA. Carl Boyd added 14 points and Thomas Kilgore had 12 for Cal (14-8, 5-7 Pac-10), which got its second victory over a Top-10 team this season.

No. 10 Arizona 78, Louisiana State 71 Jason Terry scored 25 points, including seven of 13 3-pointers, to lead 10th-ranked Arizona over visiting LSU.

No. 11 St. John's 82, Villanova 75 Tyrone Grant returned from a broken right wrist to score 14 points and grab 17 rebounds to lead St. John's (20-6, 11-3 Big East) over visiting Villanova.

No. 13 Ohio State 73, No. 19 Iowa 69 Scoonie Penn scored 24 of his 27 points in the second half and Michael Redd

added 22 points as Ohio State rallied on the road to beat Iowa for its fourth straight victory.

No. 14 Utah 82, Hawaii 65 Hanno Motola scored 10 points in less than two minutes during a 20-5 run to start the second half as 14th-ranked Utah trounced visiting Hawaii for its 15th straight victory.

No. 15 Wisconsin 73, Penn State 63 Mark Vershaw scored 16 points and Charlie Wells had 10 in the final three minutes as host Wisconsin captured its 21st victory of the season.

No. 16 Miami 68, Providence 65 Johnny Hemsley scored 24 points, including two key jumpers in the final two minutes.

No. 17 Indiana 89, Northwestern 82 Indiana shut down Evan Eschmeyer and then shut host Northwestern out in overtime. Following the game, Northwestern's coach, Kevin O'Neill, had to be restrained at midcourt when he and Coach Bob Knight of Indiana got into a shouting match after Knight apparently complained and lectured him about Northwestern's fans. Knight then stormed off the floor and O'Neill finally exited to the other side, an ugly end to an emotional game.

of concern is the increasing gap between rich and poor teams. Last season, no team with a payroll of less than \$48 million had a winning record, while only one team with a payroll of more than \$48 million — the Baltimore Orioles — had a losing record.

This season, the differences will be greater than ever. "Some teams have just given up," one baseball executive said recently.

Big-market teams such as the Yankees and Los Angeles Dodgers will have payrolls in excess of \$90 million, while the Minnesota Twins and Montreal Expos will have payrolls of less than \$15 million.

Selig has appointed a blue-ribbon commission to study the issue, but until players agree to a ceiling on salaries or the owners agree to more revenue sharing, the problem seems likely to worsen.

Still, considering the damage inflicted when a labor dispute forced cancellation of the 1994 World Series, baseball has made a spectacular recovery.

For McGwire and the Yankees, the early questions will deal with expectations. Can McGwire and Sammy Sosa



Seattle's Hersey Hawkins outperforming Denver's Raef LaFrentz to score.

With Undefeated Record, Sonics Are Looking Super

The Associated Press

SEATTLE — Maybe it was the competition, the Denver Nuggets. Or maybe the Seattle SuperSonics are going to be pretty good this season.

With Gary Payton getting 28 points and a season-high 16 assists and Hersey Hawkins breaking out of scoring slump

NBA Roundup

with 20 points, the Sonics improved their record to 5-0 with a 105-92 victory over the Nuggets here Saturday night. "Until we get our wins against better-quality teams, I'm not going to make a judgment on how good we are," Payton said.

The Sonics' start is their best since the 1993-94 season, when they won their first 10 games under their former coach, George Karl. Paul Westphal, who inherited a team from Karl that won 61 games last season, went with 19-year-old Rashard Lewis as his starting shooting guard, with Billy Owens on the injured list with a broken little finger on his left hand. Lewis, the 32d pick in last year's NBA draft, contributed eight points and five rebounds in 15 minutes.

Scoring more than 100 points for the first time this season, Seattle took a 55-44 lead at halftime with a 21-3 run in the final 2:53 of the second quarter. The Nuggets couldn't get closer than nine points behind in the fourth period.

Suns 107, Clippers 104 In Phoenix, Rex Chapman, who has been struggling to find his shot all season, scored 12 points in overtime and sent Phoenix past the winless Los Angeles Clippers.

Chapman, who was just 5-for-19 from the field when the fourth quarter ended tied at 93, made his first two shots in overtime, including a 3-pointer. He also hit seven of nine free throws to finish with 23 points. Clifford Robinson scored 23 points and Tom Gugliotta had 20 points and 10 rebounds for the Suns. Jason Kidd added 14 points and 16 assists.

Knee Surgery for Barkley

Charles Barkley was to have surgery Sunday to repair torn cartilage in his left knee and will miss three to four weeks, leaving the Houston Rockets without their leading scorer and rebounder, the team said, Agence France-Presse reported from Houston.

Scott Erickson and Juan Guzman don't do better than last season, when they combined to go 39-39, it probably won't matter how many home runs Belle hits.

"I like our ballclub," said the Orioles' new general manager, Frank Wren. "I like the way it lays out on paper. We'll get a better sense of it in spring training, but I think we can compete in our division."

One team that probably won't be contending is the Padres, who were dismantled shortly after getting swept by the Yankees in last fall's World Series. The Padres were decimated by free-agent departures: Brown to the Dodgers, center fielder Steve Finley to the Diamondbacks and third baseman Ken Caminiti to the Houston Astros. The outfielder Greg Vaughn was traded to the Reds a year before becoming a free agent.

But the Padres are nothing like the Florida Marlins, who were gutted after winning the World Series in 1997. The Padres wanted to keep Brown and Finley, but they also wanted to get younger and faster. Because they've done a good job in player development, they have young players ready to challenge for jobs.

On Eve of Spring Training, Baseball Wonders How to Top 1998

By Richard Justice

Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON — When Major League Baseball left the stage last fall, Mark McGwire had just hit his 70th home run, the New York Yankees had just won their 125th game and fans had the memories of a remarkable season that had everything from tight pennant races to the emergence of a generation of young stars.

Perhaps Commissioner Bud Selig is not exaggerating when he calls 1998 "our greatest year." Baseball begins its search for an encore performance this week as pitchers and catchers report to spring training sites around Florida and Arizona.

"Those last three months of last season were riveting," Selig said, "and I can't wait to begin again."

That renaissance is the reason Major League Baseball averaged 29,000 fans per game last season — the third-highest total in history. That renaissance is also the reason 18 ballparks are either under construction or have been opened since 1991.

Still, the game has problems. One area

of concern is the increasing gap between rich and poor teams. Last season, no team with a payroll of less than \$48 million had a winning record, while only one team with a payroll of more than \$48 million — the Baltimore Orioles — had a losing record.

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For McGwire and the Yankees, the early questions will deal with expectations. Can McGwire and Sammy Sosa

come close to repeating their historic home run race of 1998? McGwire won the individual competition with Sosa, who finished with 66 home runs, but both men shattered Roger Maris' 37-year-old record of 61 home runs.

The Yankees face similar questions. They return the winningest team in history almost intact, but it's hard to imagine them coming anywhere close to matching last season's 114 regular-season victories and 11-2 sprint through the postseason.

And there's so much more. Davey Johnson, who has led the New York Mets, Cincinnati Reds and Orioles to the playoffs, is back in uniform as manager of the Dodgers. He's joined by Kevin Brown, who was lured away from the San Diego Padres with the first \$100 million contract in history. The Anaheim Angels spent \$80 million to sign the first baseman Mo Vaughn away from the Boston Red Sox.

The Orioles, whose farm system hasn't produced an everyday player since Cal Ripken Jr. came to the major leagues in 1981, signed eight free agents at a total cost of \$122 million.

The Orioles say the free-agent signings are a temporary measure until several highly regarded youngsters are ready for the major leagues. Whether the reason, the Orioles will be baseball's oldest team for a second straight season.

Their projected Opening Day roster averages nearly 33 years per player, with their catcher, Charles Johnson, 27, the only starter under 30. As spring training begins, 21 members of the projected 25-man roster already have celebrated their 30th birthdays.

Still, the Orioles are good enough to compete. Their new outfielder, Albert Belle, has hit 215 home runs over the past five seasons — tops in the majors — and could challenge McGwire's record in hitter-friendly Oriole Park at Camden Yards. The Orioles also added a reliable second baseman in Delino DeShields and one of the game's best defensive catchers in Johnson.

But the Orioles will be only as good as their starting rotation. If Mike Mussina,

Grabs A Lead After Loss by Argentina

SCOREBOARD

BASEBALL

FINAL STANDINGS
AMERICAN LEAGUE
 AL East: Yankees 10, Red Sox 9, Blue Jays 8, Toronto 7, Baltimore 6.
 AL Central: Twins 10, White Sox 9, Cleveland 8, Detroit 7, Chicago 6.
 AL West: Mariners 10, Rangers 9, Oakland 8, Anaheim 7, Seattle 6.

NATIONAL LEAGUE
 NL East: Braves 10, Mets 9, Phillies 8, Pittsburgh 7, New York 6.
 NL Central: Cardinals 10, Cubs 9, St. Louis 8, Houston 7, Cincinnati 6.
 NL West: Dodgers 10, Giants 9, San Francisco 8, Los Angeles 7, San Diego 6.

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BASEBALL
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 Twins 10, White Sox 9, Cleveland 8, Detroit 7, Chicago 6.
 Mariners 10, Rangers 9, Oakland 8, Anaheim 7, Seattle 6.

BASEBALL
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BASEBALL
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SPORTS

A Sneak Preview for Sydneysiders

Olympic Sites Taking Shape as Planning Remains on Schedule

By Christopher Clarey
International Herald Tribune

SYDNEY — In the Northern Hemisphere, it has been the harshest winter in history for the International Olympic Committee. But as you stand before the Sydney Opera House on a summer afternoon in the other hemisphere, it is easy to feel warmer about the Olympic movement.

From here, on Sept. 15 next year, the world's finest women's triathletes will take the plunge on the opening day of competition at the 2000 Summer Games, which continue until Oct. 1. With the familiar white forms of the Opera House for a backdrop, they will freestyle their way around one of the world's more idyllic harbors as tens of thousands of spectators cheer them from the shore.

Most of those spectators will be Sydneysiders, the name for those who live in this seaport of about 4 million. Brought into a Sydney suburb by accident, and the rest will come. "You're all right, mate," and after several days of contact with Sydney's future Olympic sites, it is difficult not to return the encouraging words. In the midst of an Olympic bribery scandal, which has turned into a crisis of credibility for the IOC and sparked an independent local investigation of the Sydney bid, this city has continued to prepare for the biggest event in its history. For the moment, the city is on, and, in some cases, ahead of schedule.

The new 110,000-seat stadium, the largest used in an Olympics, is essentially completed and will host its first event in March, three months earlier than planned. The Sydney International Aquatics Center, the largest of its kind, has been open since 1994 and already has received 5 million visitors: an appropriately high number in a nation where swimming is a major sport, and a predominantly suburban diversion with a quadrennial exclamation point.

Seventy percent of the competition venues are finished, and 90 percent of the contracts or tenders have been awarded, said Elsie Hastings, a spokeswoman for the Olympic Co-Ordination Authority, the governmental agency overseeing venue construction.

Most of the new venues, including the Olympic stadium, are in Homebush Bay, which lies about 10 miles (16 kilometers) west of the city center where the Parramatta River begins to widen on its way to the harbor. Fifteen of the 28 Olympic sports will be contested there, including those that generally attract the greatest interest in the United States: gymnastics, swimming and diving, basketball and track and field. The main press center, international broadcast center and Olympic Village will also be in this area, which will make the Sydney Games the most compact in memory.

In theory, many athletes will be able to walk from their housing to their events and no competition venue is expected to be more than 30 minutes away from Homebush Bay.

"Proximity is one of the advantages we will have over Atlanta," said Michael Knight, the minister of Olympics for the New South Wales state government.

Atlanta represents something of a cautionary tale for the Sydney Organizing Committee for the Olympic Games. Because of the bus system that often went awry in Atlanta in the opening days, the committee already has brought drivers to Sydney for early training and each driver will be responsible for no more than two routes. There also will be strict limits on street vendors and no attempt to recreate the tent city that passed for Centennial Park in Atlanta.

"They called it Centennial Park, but I always thought that a park had trees," said Sue Graham, director of media services for the organizing committee.

Sydney will be easier on the public eye, particularly when its athletes have water views, as beach volleyballers will at the celebrated Bondi Beach and marathoners will as they hustle across the Harbor Bridge. But not all will conform with the positive stereotype of Sydney.

In general, the city center, with its

struction at Homebush Bay.

According to Greenpeace, the chemical HCFC 123, which is to be used by the builders, is an ozone-depleting substance. Greenpeace proposes an ammonia-based system. The government coordination agency has rejected that suggestion and says the ozone risk with its system is minimal and that it is safer than an ammonia-based approach. That prompted lawyers for Greenpeace to file suit in Australian federal court in December.

But even Michael Bland, Greenpeace's Olympics campaign coordinator, concedes that there is more good environmental news than bad. "Right now, I'd give them 7 out of 10 even with the refrigerants," Bland said. "If we get that resolved, we will have to give them 8 out of 10."

There would still be other rubbing points, however. Bondi Beach residents are none too delighted at the prospect of their beloved stretch of sand being blocked off for weeks by a beach volleyball stadium. If southerly winds blow in cold Antarctic air, the beach volleyballers will be none too delighted, either.

There are serious concerns about the utility and profitability of the massive and evocative Olympic Stadium, which will be reduced to a capacity of 80,000 after the Games but could still have difficulty filling that many seats on a regular basis.

When the private consortium that financed the bulk of the stadium's \$440 million cost attempted to sell shares in the project to the public in 1997, the offering was 69 percent under-subscribed. And that is not the only Olympic-linked fund-raiser to flop here: the sale of Olympic license plates and souvenirs also has lagged badly, as has the sale of memberships in an Olympic Club, which offers Olympic paraphernalia and other perquisites.

There is also concern about traffic jams in a sprawling city linked by relatively narrow roads and about pedestrian traffic flow at Homebush Bay, where as many as 400,000 people could crowd onto the site during the second weekend when swimming and track and field will be running concurrently.

"The operations and logistical guys are spending a lot of time on that one," said Greg Thomas, an organizing committee spokesman.

It remains unclear what impact the IOC corruption scandal will have on local enthusiasm. The story has received massive media coverage here, and an independent inquiry into the Sydney bid has been launched by Knight in an attempt to address public and sponsor concern. Sydney's Olympic organizing committee is still about \$145 million short of its sponsorship targets and more revelations could potentially affect ticket sales.

Even in the most sanguine of times, ticket sales were going to be a marketing challenge. The Sydney organizing committee has 4 million individual tickets to sell in a country that, for all its love of sport, only has 18.3 million inhabitants.

Atlanta might not have had a striking opera house with an ocean view or bus drivers with a fine sense of direction, but it did have 250 million Americans for a target audience.

Lazio Grabs Serie A Lead After Loss by Fiorentina

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

ROME — Fiorentina clearly missed its two top strikers Sunday as it lost, 1-0, at Udinese and surrendered first place in the Italian league to Lazio.

Gabriel Batistuta, the leading scorer in the league, was injured while Edmundo left the team to go home to Rio de Janeiro for the city's annual carnival.

Roberto Carlos Sosa's goal with 10 minutes left gave Udinese the upset.

Soccer Roundup

dropping the losers behind Lazio, which moved up even though its nine-game winning streak ended in a 0-0 draw at Cagliari.

Sosa, an Argentine striker, exchanged passes with Tomas Locatelli and fired the return pass under the crossbar to hand Fiorentina its first loss in five games.

Lazio's league-leading offense was completely shut down by Cagliari. The Roman club was trying to equal the Serie A record of 10 consecutive victories, first set by Juventus in the 1931-32 season and matched just twice since.

But the draw was enough to pull Lazio even with Fiorentina on points, and ahead on goal differential. It is the first time Lazio has been atop the Serie A standings since early in the 1974-75 campaign, a year after the team claimed its lone league championship.

AC Milan stayed on the top pair's heels by edging Venezia, 2-1. Andrea Gagliardini and Maurizio Ganz scored for Milan.

Inter Milan continued its roller-coaster season, losing, 2-1, at Perugia without Ronaldo or the veteran Roberto Baggio. Both are injured, but Ronaldo took the opportunity to go to Portugal to attend the carnival in Alcobaca.

It was the first game with Perugia for the veteran Yugoslav coach, Vujadin Boskov, who was hired by the team after Claudio Castagna resigned.

Carlo Ancelotti's debut as coach of Juventus was also successful, as the defending league champion beat Piacenza, 2-0. Marcello Lippi abruptly quit as Juve's coach minutes after the team's 4-2 loss on Feb. 7 to AC Parma.

Roma, which signed its own embattled coach, Zdenek Zeman, to a one-year contract extension last week, beat Sampdoria of Genoa, 3-1, thanks to two goals in the final six minutes by Paulo Sergio, a substitute forward from Brazil.

INGLAND. Andy Cole gave Manchester United a 1-0 victory over Fulham in the fifth round of the FA Cup on Sunday.

Cole scored in the 26th minute against the second-division team from western London. After the game, United was paired against Fulham's near neighbor, Chelsea, in the quarterfinals. United is first in the Premier League, Chelsea is second.



Rui Costa of Fiorentina, left, struggling to keep up with Giuliano Giannichedda at Udinese. While Fiorentina lost, 1-0, in chilly north Italy and gave up first place in the league, its striker Edmundo, below, was taking a break in Rio where he played in a beach 'futvolley' tournament.

Fulham fought hard after Cole's goal, and its fans screamed for a penalty when Dirk Lehmann went down under a challenge from Gary Neville. But United created more scoring chances.

Blackburn earned itself a replay with a brave defensive performance at Newcastle that resulted in a 0-0 draw. Stephen Glass and Nobby Solano, Newcastle's two wingers, troubled host Blackburn throughout, but somehow could never produce the killing pass.

In FA Cup games on Saturday, Roberto di Matteo scored with five minutes to play to give Chelsea a 1-0 victory at Sheffield Wednesday, while Tottenham Hotspur drew, 1-1 at Leeds United.

It was the first visit to Leeds by George Graham since he left the club late last year to become manager at Tottenham. Tim Sherwood gave Spurs the lead with his first goal since joining the club. Ian Harte replied for Leeds.

In the only meeting between two teams from outside the Premier League, Barnsley beat a fellow first-division team, Bristol Rovers, 4-1. Huddersfield, also of the first division, drew, 2-2, with visiting Derby County.

Everton, which had scored only three goals in 12 league games this season at home, beat visiting Coventry, 2-1. It was the first time Everton had scored twice at home against another Premier League team this season.

FRANCE. Francis Llacer, the Paris-St. Germain team captain, suffered a fractured rib and a lung injury in his team's 2-1 loss at Lens on Saturday.

Llacer was injured in a crunching collision with Stephane Dalmat of Lens. The pitch was rock hard due to the icy conditions and probably contributed to Llacer's injury. The midfielder had complained before the game about the poor conditions.

Sylvain Willord, the top scorer in France, struck twice as Bordeaux beat Bastia, 2-0, and retook the league lead from Marseille, which played Sunday night.



Edmundo

SCOREBOARD

BASKETBALL

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

ATLANTIC DIVISION

W L Pct GB

Orlando 31 18 .635 0

Philadelphia 29 20 .592 2

Boston 28 21 .569 3

New York 27 22 .549 4

Washington 26 23 .529 5

Charlotte 25 24 .509 6

Cleveland 24 25 .488 7

Indiana 23 26 .467 8

Detroit 22 27 .446 9

Milwaukee 21 28 .426 10

Pittsburgh 20 29 .405 11

Columbus 19 30 .385 12

New Jersey 18 31 .364 13

Washington 17 32 .344 14

Charlotte 16 33 .323 15

Cleveland 15 34 .303 16

Indiana 14 35 .282 17

Detroit 13 36 .262 18

Milwaukee 12 37 .241 19

Pittsburgh 11 38 .221 20

Columbus 10 39 .200 21

New Jersey 9 40 .180 22

Washington 8 41 .159 23

Charlotte 7 42 .138 24

Cleveland 6 43 .118 25

Indiana 5 44 .097 26

Detroit 4 45 .077 27

Milwaukee 3 46 .056 28

Pittsburgh 2 47 .036 29

Columbus 1 48 .015 30

New Jersey 0 49 .000 31

Washington 0 50 .000 32

Charlotte 0 51 .000 33

Cleveland 0 52 .000 34

Indiana 0 53 .000 35

Detroit 0 54 .000 36

Milwaukee 0 55 .000 37

Pittsburgh 0 56 .000 38

Columbus 0 57 .000 39

New Jersey 0 58 .000 40

Washington 0 59 .000 41

Charlotte 0 60 .000 42

Cleveland 0 61 .000 43

Indiana 0 62 .000 44

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Pittsburgh 0 155 .000 137

Columbus 0 156 .000 138

New Jersey 0 157 .000 139

Washington 0 158 .000 140

Charlotte 0 159 .000 141

Cleveland 0 160 .000 142

Indiana 0 161 .000 143

Detroit 0 162 .000 144

Milwaukee 0 163 .000 145

Pittsburgh 0 164 .000 146

Columbus 0 165 .000 147

New Jersey 0 166 .000 148

Washington 0 167 .000 149

Charlotte 0 168 .000 150

Cleveland 0 169 .000 151

Indiana 0 170 .000 152

Detroit 0 171 .000 153

Milwaukee 0 172 .000 154

Pittsburgh 0 173 .000 155

Columbus 0 174 .000 156

New Jersey 0 175 .000 157

Washington

On St. Valentine's Day, Barcelona Massacres Real Madrid

BOXING Oscar De La Hoya beat Mike Quartery in a split decision after a ferocious World Boxing Council welterweight title fight Saturday in Las Vegas. De La Hoya, an American, knocked the Ghanaian down early in the final round. Quartery got up and refused to go down again as De La Hoya landed 17 punches. Both men had started the night unbeaten. (LAT)

Finn and Australian Gain Surprise Slalom Golds

On Saturday, Zali Steggall of Australia upset the favorites in the women's slalom. She was almost a full second

When Steggall accepted her medal, albeit to the wrong national anthem, it marked another in a growing list of firsts for Australia's first family of winter sports. Last year, the 24-year-old became the first Australian woman to win a World Cup race, then 10 weeks later in Nagano, Japan, she claimed Australia's first Alpine skiing Olympic medal by taking the bronze in the slalom.

Steggall's brother Zeke won the gold

Having struggled through a difficult World Cup campaign that had gone steadily downhill since a second-place finish at Mammoth Mountain, Steggall returned recently to Sydney to recharge her batteries.

Steve Locher, a Swiss, finished an unexpected third. (Reuters AEP AP)

The convention is that at the subsequent throw-in, the ball is returned immediately to the team that put it out.

But Nwankwo Kanu, a Nigerian international who was making his team debut for Arsenal after a £4.5 million (\$7.4 million) transfer from Inter Milan, intercepted Ray Parlour's throw toward United's goalkeeper.

Kanu crossed the ball to Overmars, a Dutchman, who scored unchallenged.

Philip Don, the Premier League referees' spokesman, was unhappy with the decision to replay the game.

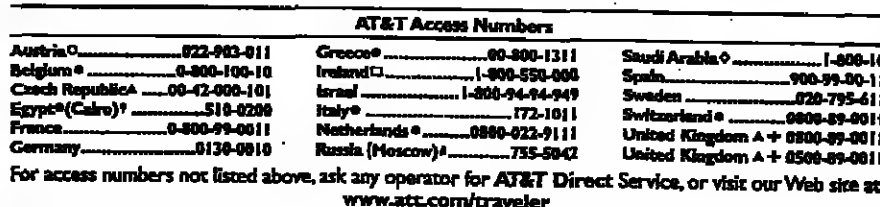
"Whatever one may think about the rights and wrongs of what happened, no laws were broken when the goal was scored," he said.



(put on a happy face)

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Free Markets

Europe's Business

AGENT
Clinton Warm's to Idea

SEN. Clinton said Clinton has not told his wife, Hillary, "would make a 'confidential' U.S. senator," and would not have had to decide whether or not to name a New York state judge.

"For all of that, I think it's important to make sure we understand the principle in the law," Clinton said. "I think the law is clear, and we've got to make sure that the private meetings with

[illegible]

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